

Sermon ~ Sunday, December 14, 2021

Text: Matthew 13: 44

Title: "I'd Rather have JESUS, *more than Anything!*"

The LORD JESUS as HE awakened me *in spirit*, this pass Tuesday morning, did so, with the lyrics and music offered by the Dallas Fort Worth Mass Choir...

You know that I'd rather have JESUS than *all*, of the silver and *all*, of the gold.

I'd rather have JESUS than *all*, of the riches and wealth untold.

I'd rather have JESUS than *all*, of the houses and *all*, of the land.

I'd rather have JESUS, *more than anything!*

HE *saved* my soul, HE *made* me whole.

HE *made* me free, *on Calvary*,

HE *paid* the price, for you and me

I'd rather have JESUS *more than anything!*

Our text is the *second* of five parables: COMparisons of The TRUTH and similitudes: likeness, similarities, *taught* by JESUS. It's a 'private,' personal, particular, teaching of JESUS with HIS disciples. It's about "a treasure hidden in a field." BUT The TRUTH of HIS *teachings* is about, "**The Value of The KINGdom of Heaven!**"

"Again, The KINGdom of heaven is like unto treasure..." (Matthew 13: 44a)

To the *ordinary*, this would be just another story, entitled "*Finders Keepers, Losers Weepers.*" [Yea, a man is walking *through* a field and comes across a 'treasure' that is *hidden* there. He *finds* it and is shocked at *the value* of this 'treasure.' In response, *he goes and sells all he has*, so he can *buy that field*, and own the 'treasure' for himself. The reality is that this man *certain* that *the owner* of the field has *no claim* on the 'treasure.' For when he *found* it, he *hid* it again and *sold all* that he had to purchase the field. *That way* he was the owner of the field and legally possessor of the 'treasure.' "*Finders Keepers, Losers Weepers.*"]

But our text, is not an '*ordinary*' story. JESUS is *teaching* HIS *disciples* *privately*, *personally*, with *particularity* about, "**The Value of The KINGdom of Heaven!**"

"Again, The KINGdom of heaven is like unto treasure..." (Matthew 13: 44a)

Treasure, means "*something precious.*" "**The KINGdom of heaven**" is '*something of great value.*' Treasure, in the Greek language, is the word "*thesauros,*" (thay-sow-ros'), meaning to put, set... *Properly*, to *store-up treasure* (riches). *Store-up treasure* in the heart and mind... *Store-up wisdom, understanding and knowledge* of the correct present **Church**. *Store-up* the doctrine (teachings) *hid* in **GOD!**

Questions? What's stored in your heart? How valuable are your treasure-thoughts? How much is your *treasure* worth?

1. **The Fortune.** “Again, **The KINGdom of heaven is like unto treasure...**” (Matthew 13: 44a)

Point: *The Value of the ‘treasure’ is not apparent to many who store it! It is “hid” from the world, the worldly, the worldly-minded! They value “secular things: attitudes, activities, ambitions, on everything, not, “*spiritual things*.” They don not perceive “*spiritual values* or *spiritual understanding*.” [The hearts of the people; the ears in the hearts the people’s, are so *dull and hard and blind*.” [...seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.” (Matthew 13: 13)]*

And **JESUS** is saying, “Eye hath not seen, not ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which **GOD** hath prepared for them that love **HIM**. (I Corinthians 2: 9)]
What a great tragedy to not be able to perceive “**The Value of The KINGdom of heaven**,” the most important things in life—**SPIRITUAL** matters!

2. **The Finding.**

“Again, **The KINGdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man had found...**” (Matthew 13: 44b) The finding of the ‘treasure’ was not because the man was ‘treasure hunting.’ Point: The ‘treasure’ came by “**Providence**.” Simply by, “**GOD’S Caring Provision!**” By **GOD providing**, by **GOD guiding**, by **GOD purposing**, by **GOD protecting**, by **GOD’S fore-sight**, by **GOD’S fore-thought**.

[Can I make my English teachers proud, as I use ‘verb tenses’ of the English grammar to describe **The Providence of GOD?**]

-Present tense, **GOD says**-- “**I provide**.” Present Continuing tense, **GOD says**— “**I AM providing**.”

-Simple Past tense, **GOD says**— “**I provided**.” Past Continuing tense, **GOD says**— “**I was providing**.”

-Present Perfect tense, **GOD says**— “**I have provided**.” Present Perfect Continuous tense, **GOD says**— “**I have been providing**.”

-Past Perfect tense, **GOD says**— “**I had provided**.” Past Perfect Continuous tense— **GOD says**, “**I had been providing**.”

-Future tense, **GOD says**— “**I will be providing**.” Future Perfect tense, **GOD says**— “**I will have provided**.”

-Future Perfect Continuous tense, **GOD says**— “**I will have been providing**.”]

JESUS is saying to **HIS disciples**, remember, you were not looking for *Salvation*...

“All of us like sheep had gone astray. We left **GOD’S** paths to follow our own way, or another(s) way.” (Isaiah 53: 6)

“When we were utterly helpless, **CHRIST** came at just the right time and died for us *sinners*. BUT **GOD** showed **HIS** great **LOVE** for us by sending **CHRIST** to die for us while we were still *sinners*.” (Romans 5: 6, 8)

GOD in HIS providence, through **The Gospel of JESUS CHRIST**, (I Corinthians 15: 3, 4, 14...

“I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me—that **CHRIST** died for our *sins*, just as **The SCRIPTURES** said. **HE** was buried, and **HE** was raised from the dead on the third day, as **The SCRIPTURES** said. And if **CHRIST** was not raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your trust in **GOD** is useless.”

The Finding emphasizes **The G.R.A.C.E. of GOD** in *Salvation*—in *Saving* me (us)!

3. The Following.

Once again, "...**The KINGdom** of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for JOY thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field."

--When the man realizes the 'treasure' of **CHRIST and HIS WORD**—he hides it and protects it. **The Treasure of JESUS** in his heart. "That they should seek **The LORD**, if haply they might feel after **HIM**, and find **HIM**, though **HE** be not far from every one of us." (Acts 17: 27)

-- When the man realizes the 'treasure' of **CHRIST and HIS WORD**—he goes, that is, he approaches **CHRIST** and makes a decision. "I decided, to make **JESUS** my choice..."

I accepted HIS invitation... "Come unto **ME**, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 1: 28)

I decided, to make **JESUS** my choice... **HE** said to me, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith **The LORD**: though your *sins* be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." (Isaiah 1: 18)

The Fortune, the Finding and the invitation to Follow *is good to know*, BUT a *decision must be made!*

-- When the man realizes the 'treasure' of **CHRIST and HIS WORD**—he sells all... that is, he repents and turns away from *his former life* and turns to **GOD**. Two things, "he is willing to give up all; he is willing to turn to **GOD**; he is willing to repent. He's not only willing, BUT he gives up and denies self, to follow **JESUS**.

"**JESUS** said unto **HIS** disciples, "If any man will come after ME, let him deny himself, and take up **HIS** cross, and follow **ME**." (Matthew 16: 24)

-- When the man realizes the 'treasure' of **CHRIST and HIS WORD**—he buys... that is, he commits all and gives all to possess *The Treasure of Salvation*. He knows, its worth "laying hold to **JESUS**" and "**JESUS** holding on to him."

"**I AM The Good Shepherd**; and know **MY** sheep, and **AM** known of **MINE**. **MY FATHER**, which gave *them* **ME** is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck *them* out of **MY FATHER'S** hand. **I** and **MY FATHER** are one." (John 10: 14, 29-30)

-- When the man realizes the 'treasure' of **CHRIST and HIS WORD**—he JOYS...

Aren't you glad **JESUS** didn't say, "With *hesitation*, the man goes and sells all he has?"

Are you glad that the man (you, me) did not go "*begrudgingly*," *resentfully*, *reluctantly*, *unwillingly*, *without enthusiasm*, with *bad grace*. BUT with JOY...

With *complete satisfaction*... I'm *satisfied* with **JESUS**...

Some folks would rather have houses and land.

Some folks choose silver and gold.

These things they treasure and forget about their souls.

I've *decided* to make **JESUS** my choice!

The road is rough, the going gets touch and the hills are hard to climb.

I've started out a long time ago, there's no doubt in my mind,

I've *decided* to make **JESUS** my choice!