

Sunday School Lesson, Tuesday, July 25th, & Sunday, July 30th, 2023

by Pastor Dwight Benoit

Summer Quarter Lesson ~ June, July, and August 2023

Lesson 9 – Unit II Theme: “JESUS Envisions The KINGdom!”

Envision, verb, meaning, to visualize; to see in one’s mind’s eye.

Subject: “Searching for Buried Treasure!”

Text: Matthew 13: 44-52

Key Word...

-- ‘Treasure,’ *thesaurus* (thay-sow-ros’), a storehouse for precious things, including thoughts, Salvation in your Spirit, Soul-Heart and Mind.

Topics...

1. The KINGdom Shall Be Like. (Matthew 13: 44-48)

V. 44 – ‘Treasure’ hidden in a field... it’s so valuable, a wise man will sell all he has to ‘obtain,’ [gain, attain, secure] the ‘treasure.’ To ‘obtain’ [gain, attain, secure] **The KINGdom** of Heaven is to ‘obtain’ [gain, attain, secure] *Salvation—Eternal Life*.

In **JESUS’** day, it was common to hide ‘treasure’ and valuables by burying them in the ground. Well, **The Gospel of JESUS CHRIST**, is like, ‘treasure’ [wealth; a valuable commodity; *thesaurus* (thay-sow-ros’), a storehouse for precious *Eternal Things—Heavenly Matters*; **JESUS, JESUS, and JESUS**] *SPIRITually Matters* than *Secular Matters!*

That *Sinner* who is *now* a *Saint*; that *Predecessor* who is *now* an **Heir of GOD** and **Joint-Heir of JESUS CHRIST...**

--The *mystery* (Matthew 13: 11) that was hidden (Matthew 11: 25) is *now* Revealed, so *now* He *Hides and Protects* this ‘*Treasure of Salvation*’; He *goes*, that is, approaches **CHRIST** and makes a Decision. **CHRIST** extends Him the *invitation* (Matthew 11: 28-30); A *decision* is made (Romans 10: 9-13); He *sells All*, that is, He *repents* and *turns away* from His former life to **GOD** (Matthew 3: 2); He is not only *willing*, but He *gives up* and *denies All*—*sacrificing personal* desires, ambitions, cravings, wants, lusts, and possessions (Luke 14: 33); He *buys*, that is, He *commits All* and *gives All* to possess the ‘*Treasure of Eternal Salvation*.’

He *lays hold* on **JESUS CHRIST**. (Romans 12: 1-2) He **J.O.Y.**, that is, He *encounters* the completeness and satisfaction of ‘The Treasure’ (**JESUS CHRIST**).

[*Abundant Life*—John 10: 10; *Completeness*—Colossians 2: 10; **The Fruit of The SPIRIT**—Galatians 5: 22-23]

Vss. 45-46, **The KINGdom of Heaven** is more valuable than *Anything* else a man can ‘obtain’ [gain, attain, secure]. There are many kinds of religions in this world, but *Only* **CHRISTianity** leads to Heaven. Many *Teachers* in this world, but *Only* **ONE**—namely **JESUS**, leads to **TRUTH!** Many Blessings in this world, but only **JESUS** leads a man to *The Highest Blessing of All*—*Salvation, Eternal Life*. (John 14: 6)

There are many 'Pearls' in this world, but Only from **JESUS** can we receive This **Pearl of Great Price**, The Pearl of All—**CHRIST HIMSELF**. The *wise man will sell everything* He has, He *will give up* whatever is necessary, in order to 'obtain' [gain, attain, secure] this 'Pearl.' (Philippians 3: 7, 8)

[Pearls are born out of *Suffering*... [a speck of *sand* makes its way into an *Oyster*. The *intruder* hurts the *Oyster*. To protect itself, the *Oyster secretes* a substance called 'mother-of-pearl,' to surround the intruder. It is the *secretion* that gradually forms the Pearl. Thus, the Pearl is born out of much *torment* and *pain*. The same is true of the Believer and **The Church**: both are born out of *Suffering* and out of the travail and *death, burial, and resurrection* of **JESUS CHRIST!**]

Vss. 47, 48, The 'Net.' **CHRIST** and **HIS** disciples, cast out their '**Gospel Nets**' into the sea (world), and both good and bad things are caught. As long as the '**Gospel Net**' is in the sea, the fishermen cannot tell what is in it. Only in the final Judgement "*at The End of The Age*" (v. 49) when the 'Net' is dragged to shore, will the bad fish be taken out and thrown away.

2. The KINGdom Shall be. (Matthew 13: 49-52)

The *primary focus* is on "*The Sorting of The Fish*" or "*The Separation of The Believers from Non-Believers!*"

Main Point: The Judgment! The JUDGE is JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF!

The Day of the Judgment—"At the end of the world;" The Doers of the Judgment—"The Angels shall come forth and sever the wicked from among the just;" The Deliberation in the Judgment—"they . . . sat down;" The Deference in the Judgment—"sever the wicked from among the just, and shall cast them into the furnace of fire; and, the Damnation in the Judgment—"the wicked crowd..." "shall cast them into the furnace of fire—their condition..." "they shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth—crying..." Hell is no joking matter!

Vss. 51-52... Point: Is The *Reception* of **The WORD—The Gospel Message** of **The KINGdom** of **Heaven!**

V. 51, **JESUS** Questioned **HIS** disciples, "...Have You understood?"

Note the *Four* terms... 1. Householder—meaning, steward, manger of the supplies provided by **The OWNER—The Gospel** of **JESUS CHRIST**. 2. Instructed—You must be *taught* before You can *Teach*. 3. Scribe—refers to "*writing—explaining what's written.*" They were not to *cloud* the meaning of **The SCRIPTURES** but to *open* **The WORD of GOD** to the understanding of the people. 4. Dedication— "*Bringeth forth*" ... [If the *Proclaimer* shows little *enthusiasm* in **Divine TRUTH**, how can he or she expect the *listener* to have interest?]

The disciples at first did not understand all of the *Parables* (vs. 36). But soon they were able to understand them. They were learning to become *Teachers* themselves.

But now they were becoming instructors about **The KINGdom** of Heaven (v. 52).

Heretofore, they possessed (Old Treasure)—the Law; Now, (New Treasures)—that is, **The Gospel of JESUS CHRIST**.