

Matthew 13.44-58

The Gain is Worth the Pain

See you BROUGHT your Body to Church this Morning – You look GREAT!

But have you BROUGHT your MIND – Thinking clearly about Jesus Christ?

Is He the King YOU Follow?

v. 53 Jesus finished Sermon: 7 Parables – Seem OBVIOUS but OBSCURE

1. Treasures Found

a. Scriptures v. 51 Have you understood all these things? they answered, Yes

Love to watch SECRET VIDEO - If one of them Uplifted to WEB

DEER in HEADLIGHTS Moment – Understand?? – STAMMER...Yeah??

Parables of Kingdom > Most Puzzling sections of the Word of God

LOOK quite Simple & OBVIOUS on Surface > Deeper Truths must be Revealed

Disciples had to have PRIVATE Tutorials with Son of God to get a CLUE

It is as wrong to say that Matthew has portrayed them as understanding everything as it is to say they understood nothing. The truth lies between the extremes.
D.A. Carson

Who could say - even 2000 yrs of Faithful Interpretation available Us – Yes?!

But Disciples said “Yes” - *Believed* all they Understood - Prepared to Act on it

That is what is Required of All who Hear the Gospel Message

Do you understand these things? Are you prepared OBEY?

Some say NO, I won't OBEY God until I am Convinced, He PROVES Himself

If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. John 7.17

You MUST OBEY to BEGIN to UNDERSTAND!

v. 52 And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

In Jesus ALL OLD is NEW – Long Promised Kingdom, NOW Come, He is King

ALL the NEW is OLD – Continuity, Roots of Gospel are in Garden of Eden

Salvation in Christ – FULFILLMENT of the PROMISES in OT

It is new and revolutionary, but its validity lies in that it is grounded in God’s eternal truths, now at last brought to light. R.T. France

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.” Matthew 5.17

The steward guards the treasure, but he also dispenses it as it is needed...both the old and new...The new without the old is mere novelty and will not last. But the old does no good unless it is given new applications in life today. Warren Wiersbe

“Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you *do* them” John 13.7

b. Surprises

v. 44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

No Banks in Ancient World > Safest Place most People thought of Bury Ground

Problem: What if you FORGOT the Location, or Failed to tell Friend you DIE

GREAT Day to have a METAL DETECTOR > Abundance of Buried Treasures

Servant Working for Owner of Field > WHAT IN that Field Belonged to Owner

Finds Treasure – Looks around Carefully hoping No One Notices – Buries It

Hopes will Remember SPOT – Might take LONG Time to Work earn Payment

TREASURE is WORTH – All EFFORT it will take to BUY that FIELD

Whole LIFE is NEVER going to be the SAME – All things Now CHANGE

Perhaps person See the Value of Discovery but Decides - Too Much Trouble
Have to Adjust Priorities - Have to Sell his Goods, Change Lifestyle, Work Hard

This Man determined to Acquire the Treasure for himself

Some Not particularly anxious to find Christ—Not even very Interested in Faith

Going own Way > Unexpectedly confronted by Gospel - Never heard it Before
16 yr. Happy Long Haired HS kid in Sunny Southern California – Great Family
Went to YMCA camp Easter Week 1972 – Friends, looking for LOTS of FUN
Announced Chapel – Bible Study --- SAY WHAT?? Girls went, Me TOO!

Once you Comprehend Wonder of Kingdom > Nothing Else Compares

Saw MYself as Sinner in need of Savior > Jesus was my God-sent Savior

“I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who
did not seek me”

Isaiah 65.1

We would say PERSON who walks away from Priceless Treasure is FOOL

But people are DOING it all the TIME – Happens every SUNDAY Right Here

Believe Need Irresistible Grace – God must OPEN Hearts – As read of LYDIA

Part of OPENING Heart to God is FILLING Heart with PASSION for Him

“I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of
the wicked”

Psalm 84.10

“Because I love your commands more than gold, more than pure gold, and
because I consider all your precepts right, I hate every wrong path”

Psalm 119.127–28

c. Searches

vs. 45, 46 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Main Lessons of 2 Parables > 2 Men Found Treasure – Different Ways

Contrast > Man who found Hidden Treasure > Not Looking for it

Merchant > Finding the Pearl was Result of Long Quest

Jesus is not interested in religious efforts or in affirming that one can “buy” the kingdom; on the contrary, he is saying that a person whose whole life has been bound up with “pearls” – the entire religious heritage of the Jews? – will, on comprehending the true value of the kingdom as Jesus presents it, gladly exchange all and follow him.

D.A. Carson

Both had FOUR things in Common....

First, they recognized the value of what they had found.

Second, they determined to have it.

Third, they sold everything to make their purchase.

Fourth, they acquired the treasure.

First Man FALLS into the Kingdom – Very Little Effort – in One Hour

2nd Man Struggles to Enter Kingdom – Wm Cowper, lifetime Doubt

The kingdom is available to disciples only by grace through faith...but genuine faith involves embracing and yielding to God’s reign, not simply acknowledging it and then passing it by as if it did not exist.

Craig Keener

Individual Appropriation: Actually GOT IT – Became Their OWN

“Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also.” Martin Luther

Faith has three elements.

Intellectual - We recognize the truths of the gospel

Emotional - Find ourselves being drawn to Love Him who Loves Us

Volitional element - make Definite Commitment to Follow Him

Jesus Captures & Commands – Head, Heart, Will

What we Believe & How we Behave / What we Do & DELIGHT In

“Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus”
Philippians 3.13–14

2. Troubles Faced

a. Familiarity

vs. 54-57 and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, “Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works? Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?” And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household.”

Mark 6 – Jesus called CARPENTER – Joseph died Jesus led Family Business

Word for Carpenter > CONSTRUCTOR – Could work w/ WOOD or STONE

Village Carpenter hardly Imagine being a TEACHER, No less a MESSIAH!

ORDINARINESS of Jesus was their cause of OFFENSE

How could this Young Man they watched Grow Up be God come to Earth?

How many BEIJINGERS have NOT Seen GREAT WALL or Forbidden City?
Great Wonders – Within Easy Reach – Too Convenient, just TOO BUSY

Like youngest Son of Jesse – this SON of DAVID – does not Look Messianic
His own Village HOMIES – probably 1 most 2 Thousand – Stumble over Him
Some Fall FOREVER – Others like Own BROTHERS – Get Up and Believe

Men forget that truth is truth, however old and hackneyed it may sound, and
despise it because it is old. Alas, by doing so, they provoke God to take it away.
J.C. Ryle

Many People think Christian Church – Old USELESS Fossil – CORPSE
Sadly there ARE some Dead Congregations – Body of Christ is ALIVE & Well
Leader / Student father died on Far-Away Continent, Love Gift HOME & HELP

Last Month joined with 100 leaders in Bangkok from International Churches
Most Churches in region Samuel Zwemer called “Unoccupied Fields” in 1911
1990’s Luis Bush coined term 10/40 window -



In Window 10 degrees by 40 degrees North Latitude – 2/3 World’s Population
82% Poorest of World’s Poor live in this 10/40 Window

90% of World's Unevangelized live between those Coordinates

Non-Christians – Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Jews, Atheists

Almost every Large City – Communist, Buddhist, Hindu, Islamic lands has I. C.

1000's of Christian churches – Most Small, Struggling – Meet Freedom and Fear

MUSTARD Seed is Growing – branches of GOSPEL TREE Embrace GLOBE

May God give us EYES of Faith to see GREATNESS of all He is doing...

You are not called to poverty in Christ but to the greatest spiritual wealth. You are not called to disappointment but to fulfillment. You are not called to sorrow but to joy. How could it be otherwise when the treasure is the only Son of God? How can the outcome be bad when it means salvation? James Boice

b. Faithlessness

v. 58 And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.

HOMETOWN Nazareth paid a HIGH COST – Jesus moved to CAPERNAUM!

UNBELIEF in Whole Person – Reject this Miracle-Working, So-Called Messiah

Refuse to be PERSUADED by Miracles, His Manner, or His Message

Jesus NOT a Circus Performer – his Mission was NOT a Carnival Show

Told Satan he would NOT turn STONES into BREAD

Wants them to know HIM as God and Savior – Not GENIE or SUPERMAN

a spokesman for our modern world...

We no longer feel ourselves to be guests in someone else's home and therefore obliged to make our behavior conform with a set of preexisting cosmic rules. **It is our creation now. We make the rules.** We establish the parameters of reality. We create the world, and because we do, we no longer feel beholden to outside forces. **We no longer have to justify our behavior, for we are now the architects of the universe. We are responsible for nothing outside ourselves, for we are the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever and ever.** Jeremy Rifkin

Rejecting Son of God – Savior from Heaven – Right in their Hometown

Perhaps you came here just to ARGUE with God and Prove you're RIGHT

But if your HONEST – know your Losing – God always WINS...

“God I just want you to leave me alone. Take a seat on that chair over there and shut up! Let me get on with my life as I want to live it.” AND SO GOD DOES

FATHER OF PRODIGAL SON RELEASES HIM TO WANDER AND FALL

“When the gods wish to punish us, they answer our prayers” Oscar Wilde

MAN'S PRAYERS ARE ANSWERED – 3 X's “God gave them over...”

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. *Therefore God gave them over...* They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator--who is forever praised. Amen. Because of this, *God gave them over...* since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, *he gave them over* to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. Romans 1.20-26

OTHER PASSAGES – FUTURE WRATH / HERE PRESENT EVENT

Wrath of God “IS BEING Revealed Against” / DIRECTED AGAINST – Evil

“The wrath of God...is almost totally different from human anger. It does not mean that God loses his temper, flies into a rage, or is ever malicious, spiteful or vindictive. The alternative to wrath is not love but neutrality in the moral conflict. And God is not neutral. On the contrary, his wrath is his holy hostility to evil, his refusal to condone it or come to terms with it, his just judgment upon it.”

John Stott

c. Fire Last Parable in Matthew 13 > Fishing and Fishermen

Gathering of Fish > Followed by Separation of Good from Bad

FAMILIAR Picture to Jews along the Sea of Galilee – DRAGNET

Pulled by BOATS or MEN walking along the Lakeshore

Everything in Path will be PULLED into the NET – No Tires or Plastic Bottles

Fishermen will stand beside the sea. From Engedi to Eneglaim it will be a place for the spreading of nets. Its fish will be of very many kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea. Ezekiel 47.10

Matthew TELESCOPES thru Minor Details and Rushes to Main Point: Judgment

What, then, does the last parable teach that has not already been taught?

vs. 47-50 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Makes almost Same Points as Parable of Wheat and Weeds

FIELDS and FISH Grow until the Harvest – Gathering then a Separation

Both Parables > Work of Angels who do Gathering and Separating

Repetition of Key Phrases: vs. 40,49 “the end of the age”

vs. 42,50 “throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth”

Unique TRUTH of Parable may be what is Left Out

NOT TOLD - How the Fish got into the Water in the first place.

Nothing is said about their growth or lack of it.

No human workers, not even a devil > FOCUS on Separation of Good & Bad

New element is the Warning to the Wicked – Last Parable: GRIM END

STRANGE Story – FURNACE seems hardly a place for BAD FISH

“There is coming judgment, the fate of the ungodly will be terrible in that day.”

Word *judgment* means “to Separate.”

Hebrew, judgment refers chiefly to Work of Judge or Lawgiver

Greek, *krisis* literally means “to divide”

Jesus described Judgment as Thorough and Eternal Separation.

Here are four important facts about God’s judgment.

1. It is thorough - Time for mixture in any form will be over.

Here we have mixture all the time - some good things, & evil

Redeemed People in church, but also the Devil’s Children

Lord’s Angels will Execute Judgment > PURIFY People & Place of God

2. It is determined

Previously Determined > Grounds for Separation. Saved & Lost will already have been established on earth.

Determined by Receiving Good Seed of Gospel

Have YOU believed in Christ – What have you DONE with JESUS?

Have you laid aside Everything Else aside to Gain Him as your Treasure?

3. It is permanent Collecting of the Good Fish and Discarding of Bad

In that day the opportunity for repentance will be over.

The day for trusting in Jesus Christ will be past.

Lived in Uganda – FIRST Discovered New, Deadly VIRUS – AIDS, SLIM

Doctor friends at MULAGO Hospital – Largest in Kampala – DEATH House

Detect Virus – Pack them on BUS Home – Easier to Transport Living than Dead

Students infected at Makerere Uni – Spoke there to Christian Union

Some Men bragging were SOLDIERS for SLIM – Dying on Frontlines AIDS

Had Unprotected Sex with as Many Women as Possible – Infected Many!

Devil wants to LULL you to Carelessness / Jesus calls you to Wake Up

Do not listen to the devil's lies. - He cares nothing for you.

He is a condemned and evil - knows he must perish - sole delight taking captives

MAIN Point of Jesus' Parable > Terrible Fate not following Jesus Christ.

I am glad Jesus taught (*about hell*) rather than leaving it for his ministers to imagine. How could we say that the end will be so bad that it can only be adequately compared to an eternal burning? How could we say that it will produce an eternal “weeping and gnashing of teeth”? No mere human being would dare predict that fate for another human being. Yet that is what Jesus does. He has more to say about hell than does any other person in the Bible. James Boice

What is it that makes hell so terrible, according to Jesus Christ?

1st Suffering > Wicked thrown into Fiery Furnace, “weeping & gnashing” Teeth

2nd Remembering > Blessings of one’s Previous Life and Lost Chances

Jesus told how Abraham said to Man in Hell:

“Son, *remember* that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony”

Luke 16.24–25

One of Most Chilling Statements in Bible > Rich Man is told to Remember

How he Enjoyed a Lifetime of Good Things without any Reference to God

Good things Gone Forever > had his Heaven on Earth > Never ENJOY Again

Lazarus tasted Hell here > Now enjoying God’s Heaven FOREVER

2 People know FOR SURE True Condition of Spiritual State – You & God

Not your PARENTS your PARTNER or even your PASTOR

You cannot be CERTAIN your PASTOR is Christian tell Meet Him there

GOD knows and YOU Know – GENUINE Follower or a NO-GOOD FISH

Jesus spoke so VIVIDLY because He does NOT want anyone in Devil’s Fire

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2.1,2

Matthew 13:⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹“Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”⁵³ And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there, ⁵⁴and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, “Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works? ⁵⁵Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? ⁵⁶And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?” ⁵⁷And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household.” ⁵⁸And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.