

STUDY NOTES ON THE PARABLES OF THE HIDDEN TREASURE AND THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE: -

- Why did Jesus use so many Parables in His public teachings?

Matthew 13:10 – 17: - “And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people's heart is waxed gross, and *their* ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with *their* eyes and hear with *their* ears, and should understand with *their* heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. But blessed *are* your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous *men* have desired to see *those things* which ye see, and have not seen *them*; and to hear *those things* which ye hear, and have not heard *them*.”

NOTE: - The Parables of the Hidden Treasure, and the Pearl of Great Price, are set in the middle of Jesus' explanation of the Parable of the Wheat and Tares, and the Parable of the Gospel Net – See Matthew 13:36 – 43 & 47 – 50. Both of these Parables end with Jesus referring to the end of the world – “*so shall it be in the end of this/the world.*” - VS. 40 & 49.

Why would Jesus nestle these two small Parables in the midst of the Parables ending with His references to the end of the world? Could it be that the truths revealed in these two small Parables are essential preparation for the end of the world?

- Jesus gives two small Parables referring to a man finding hidden treasure in a field and selling what he has to buy that field; and the other Parable refers to a Trader finding a Pearl of great price, and selling all that he has, to buy this one great Pearl.

Matthew 13:44 - 46 : - “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. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.”

- The term **the Kingdom of Heaven** is used by Jesus in introducing these Parables. What is this Kingdom to which Jesus is referring to? The following passages shed further light upon the term *The kingdom of Heaven*. [The term “the Kingdom of Heaven” is only found in Matthew’s gospel.]

Matthew 4:17: - “From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Matthew 5:3, 10, 17 - 20: - “Blessed *are* the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ... Blessed *are* they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ... Think not

that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach *them*, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 13:52: - “Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe *which is* instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man *that is* an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure *things* new and old.”

Matthew 18:1 – 4: - “At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, and said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

Luke 17:20 & 21: - “And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.”

What is the Treasure or Riches that Jesus is referring to?

- We need to understand that it is NOT earthly – temporal treasure and riches that Jesus was referring to in these two Parables. Rather, it was Spiritual treasure and riches that lead to eternal life, to which Christ was referring to in these Parables.

Matthew 6:19 – 21: - “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

Luke 12:33 & 34: - “Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

It is finding the wisdom, instruction and understanding of God; finding the truths of the gospel of Christ; it is finding Jesus Christ Himself, in whom are hid all the Heavenly treasures. This is the Heavenly Treasure.

Job 28:12 – 18: - “But where shall wisdom be found? and where *is* the place of understanding? Man knoweth not the price thereof; neither is it found in the land of the living. The depth saith, It *is* not in me: and the sea saith, *It is* not with me. It cannot be gotten for gold, neither shall silver be weighed *for* the price thereof. It cannot be valued with the gold of Ophir, with the precious onyx, or the sapphire. The gold and the crystal cannot equal it: and the exchange of it *shall not be for* jewels of fine gold. No mention shall be made of coral, or of pearls: for the price of wisdom *is* above rubies.”

Psalms 119:14: - “I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as *much as* in all riches.”

Psalm 119:97 – 104: - “MEM. O how love I thy law! it *is* my meditation all the day. Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they *are* ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies *are* my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts. I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word. I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast taught me. How sweet are thy words unto my taste! *yea, sweeter* than honey to my mouth! Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.”

Psalm 119:162: - “I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil.”

Proverbs 2:1 – 6: - “My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, *and* apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, *and* liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as *for* hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth *cometh* knowledge and understanding.”

Proverbs 3:12 – 18: - “For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son *in whom* he delighteth. Happy *is* the man *that* findeth wisdom, and the man *that* getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it *is* better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. She *is* more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her. Length of days *is* in her right hand; *and* in her left hand riches and honour. Her ways *are* ways of pleasantness, and all her paths *are* peace. She *is* a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy *is every one* that retaineth her.”

Proverbs 4:18 – 22: - “But the path of the just *is* as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked *is* as darkness: they know not at what they stumble. My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they *are* life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.”

Proverbs 8:10 – 21: - “Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold. For wisdom *is* better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it. I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions. The fear of the LORD *is* to hate evil: pride, and arrogance, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate. Counsel *is* mine, and sound wisdom: I *am* understanding; I have strength. By me kings reign, and princes decree justice. By me princes rule, and nobles, *even* all the judges of the earth. I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me. Riches and honour *are* with me; *yea*, durable riches and righteousness. My fruit *is* better than gold, *yea*, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver. I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment: That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures.”

Proverbs 13:7: - “There is that maketh himself rich, yet *hath* nothing: *there is* that maketh himself poor, yet *hath* great riches.”

2nd Corinthians 4:3 – 7: - “But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”

2nd Corinthians 8:9: - “For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.”

Colossians 1:27: - “To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

Colossians 2:1 – 3: - “For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and *for* them at Laodicea, and *for* as many as have not seen my face in the flesh; That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgment of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”

- **In both of these two Parables, let us notice the effort that is put forth by the two men who find the Heavenly Treasure. They sell all that they have, to acquire this treasure. The Parables are teaching us the effort, the prioritizing, and the single mindedness of purpose of those who are seeking for the Heavenly Treasure. And once they have obtained this treasure they are to hold it tight, so that they do not lose it.**

Psalms 119:2: - “Blessed *are* they that keep his testimonies, *and that* seek him with the whole heart.”

Psalms 119:10: - “With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.”

Proverbs 4:5 – 7: - “Get wisdom, get understanding: forget *it* not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee. Wisdom *is* the principal thing; *therefore* get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.”

Proverbs 23:23: - “Buy the truth, and sell *it* not; *also* wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.”

Isaiah 55:6 & 7: - “Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”

Jeremiah 29:13: - “And ye shall seek me, and find *me*, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.”

Matthew 7:7 & 8: - “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.”

Matthew 7:13 & 14: - “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”

Matthew 19:21: - “Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go *and* sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come *and* follow me.”

James 1:5 – 7: - “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.”

- We are to be diligent to find the true Heavenly riches. It is worth everything in making the spiritual efforts to get hold of the true riches of God, and to hold on to them.

Psalm 119:4: - “Thou hast commanded *us* to keep thy precepts diligently.”

Hebrews 11:6: - “But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

2nd Peter 1:4 - 11: - “Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither *be* barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”

- We are exhorted to buy of Christ the true spiritual riches of the Robe of Christ’s righteousness.

Isaiah 55:1 & 2: - “Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for *that which is* not bread? and your labour for *that which* satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye *that which is* good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.”

Isaiah 61:10: - “I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh *himself* with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth *herself* with her jewels.”

Revelation 3:17 & 18: - “Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked. I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.”

- We have been exhorted in the New Testament writings to search the Scriptures – to study them carefully, to know the truth of God – to know the treasures of God’s Word.

John 5:39: - “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”

Acts 17:10 - 12: - “And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming *thither* went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.”

2nd Timothy 2:15: - “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

- Why is this all important for us to understand? It is for the vital soul preparation that is required by God, so that His followers will remain steadfast in their Christian walk. It is also so that they can continue in their spiritual growth, in obtaining all the Heavenly Treasure that Christ offers, through His inspired Word. We are to hold fast to these spiritual treasures, so as to hold on to the crown of life.

2nd Peter 3:18: - “But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him *be* glory both now and for ever. Amen.”

Revelation 3:11: - “Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.”