

The Incomparable Worth of the Kingdom

Promise: Jesus frees us from sin and gives us unimaginable hope of glory

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Deut 7:6-9; Ps 125; Romans 8:28-39; [Matthew 13:44-52](#)
(8th Sunday after Pentecost (Pr 12), 7/26/20)

Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.” – v. 44b

Lead In – For true love the poets and lyricists speak of a devotion that *would climb the highest mountain, sail across the seven seas, and swim the deepest sea.* And we have all heard of artifacts that are called *priceless*. Leslie and I saw such an object in a museum a little over a year ago... This morning, in two of our Lord’s parables we encounter buried treasure, and an extraordinary pearl...

I. If People Only Knew the Value of the Treasure

- The immediate background to group of parables...
- Value is hidden until illumination of HS...
- Paul had discovered the “surpassing worth”...

II. When We Become Sellers Instead of Witnesses

- The flesh recoils at the preaching of Christ...
- Difference between advertising and proclaiming...
- The immediate benefit: clear conscience & hope...

III. How Is This Advancing Kingdom Priceless?

- It is truth, and the Truth sets us free...
- To behold beauty is its own reward...
- Assurance of a hope that will not disappoint us...

Parting Shot – The happiest people I know do not live for ease and luxury. They don’t all have health, wealth, and an absence of trials. But they do have a passion and energy for service. They see work, not as a burden, but as something they enjoy doing. Invariably, they are people of faith, believers in Christ. They have discovered and found...

Context: Jesus’ mounting conflict with religious authorities, and resistance to his message.

Luther’s Expl to 3rd Article: I believe that I cannot by my own understanding or effort believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, and sanctified and kept me in true faith. ...

1 Cor 2:12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

1 Cor 2:14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

1 Cor 15:8-9 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

Acts 22:6-7 “As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me. And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’

Phil 3:8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have

Matthew 13:44-52 ESV

The Parable of the Hidden Treasure

⁴⁴The 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.

The Parable of the Pearl of Great Value

⁴⁵Again, 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.

The Parable of the Net

⁴⁷Again, 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.

New And Old Treasures

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.”

suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.

Luke 24:47 Repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

Acts 2:23 This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

Acts 2:36 - 37 Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

2 Cor 2:17 For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God’s word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.

John 8:31b-32 “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

1 Jn 3:2 Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

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Psalm 125

¹Those who trust in the LORD
are **like** Mount Zion,*
which cannot be moved,
but stands **fast** forever.

²The hills stand **about** Jerusalem,*
so does the LORD stand
round about his people,
from this time forth **forevermore**.

³The scepter of the wicked
shall not hold sway over the land
allotted **to** the just,*
so that the just
shall not put their **hands** to evil.

⁴Show your goodness, O LORD,
to those **who** are good*
and to those who are **true** of heart.

⁵As for those
who turn aside to crooked ways,
the LORD will lead them away
with the **evildoers**;*
but peace be **upon** Israel.

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