

Adult Sunday School

March 14, 2021

Matthew 13:44-58

Outline

- Mysteries of the Messianic Kingdom Revealed in Parables (Third Discourse) (13:1-53)
 - Explanation and parables told to the disciples (13:36-53)
- The Identity of the Messiah Revealed (13:54-16:20)
 - Prophet(s) without honor (13:54-14:12)

Matthew 13:44-50¹

Theme- *Parables of the treasure, the pearl, and the net.*

Scope and Purpose -

- The parables of the treasure in the field and the pearl of great price convey the same lesson. The difference, the treasure was found by one who did not originally seek it; the pearl was found by someone seeking pearls. However, the conduct in the two are alike- they sold all to obtain these properties.
- The parable of the net has commonality with the parable of the wheat and tares. It instructs us on the true nature of the visible church.

Prominent Points

Parables of Treasure and Pearl

1. Conduct of the two men

- a. One was persuaded there was a treasure in a field which would amply repay him if he bought it, however great the price.
- b. The other determined that the pearl he found was so valuable that he would purchase it at any cost.²
- c. They were sure they were making a good bargain even though others may scoff.

2. Application

- a. We see the conduct of a true Christian explained. His religion is thoroughly worthwhile. He comes out from the world and puts off the old man and

¹ For an excellent resource, see Gerald Bilkes- *Glory Veiled and Unveiled; A Heart Searching Look at Christ's Parables* pp 62-79.

² See Richard Alleine, *Heaven Opened*, pp. 224-226, *Obedience in the Covenant, Obedience of the heart.*

obtains salvation. He is convinced Christ will make amends for all he gives up.

- a.i. Christ is an endless treasure, a precious pearl
- a.ii. This is true faith from the Holy Spirit.
- b. We see also a clue to the conduct of the unconverted. They are not persuaded that it is worthwhile to be different. They flinch. They will not come down boldly on the Lord's side. It is not worth the price. If they make the wrong decision, it is eternal punishment. He has no grace.
- c. Do you have grace? Will you give yourself in faith to Christ?
- d. Ephesians 1:3-14
- e. Irony- God's grace is FREE! We don't provide any of our own merit. It is Christ's merit. PRAISE GOD!

Parable of the Net

Prominent Points

1. The preaching of the gospel is the letting down of a net into the sea of the world.
2. The professing church is a mixed body. Good and bad fish. False and true Christians.
3. The separation of the fish would come at the end of the age.
4. We need to know this nature of the visible church otherwise perilous mistakes result.
5. Application
 - a. All congregations are mixed bodies.
 - b. To tell all baptized people that they are born again, have the Spirit, and are members of Christ and are holy; this is utterly unwarrantable.
 - b.i. It promotes flattery, self-righteousness, lulls sinners to sleep, and overthrows the plain teaching of Christ.
 - b.ii. If we hear such doctrine, remember the net.

Matthew 13:51-58

Theme - *Christ's treatment in his own country - danger of unbelief.*

Scope and Purpose - We need to understand the parables. We need to see the peril of unbelief.

Prominent Points

1. Jesus poses the question - Do you understand all these parables? Can we apply these parables?
 - a. Do we understand the applications of sermons? Good news at PCCC! The applications are printed out for you! Put them in your Bibles and meditate on them. Catechize the family on them. Put them in your prayer folders.
 - b. Do we just go to church to check a box? Are we then any different than the heathen?
 - c. We need to take to church our minds, reason, hearts conscience. The heart is the main concern, but the Holy Spirit reaches our heart through the mind.
2. The strange treatment Jesus receives in his own country
 - a. He came to Nazareth. They were astonished by his teaching but were unmoved. They despised him in his familiarity. Thus the remark from Jesus that a prophet is without honor in his own country and own house.
 - b. Application
 - b.i. We are apt to despise mercies if we are accustomed to them and have them cheap.
 - b.i.1. Bibles are everywhere, gospel preaching, means of grace are still abundant here in the U.S. But they are undervalued. The danger is that we can provoke God to take it away.
 - b.i.2. Do we wonder that relatives and neighbors of godly people are not always converted? Learn from the people of Nazareth.
 - b.i.3. Would we only believe if we lived and saw Christ and everything he did? Learn from the people of Nazareth.
 - b.ii. We see the ruinous nature of unbelief.
 - b.ii.1. Unbelief leads to hell. All is offered to us to believe - forgiveness, the Father's readiness to receive us, the blood of Christ is ready to cleanse us, the power of the Spirit is ready to renew us. But unbelief is the great barrier.
 - b.ii.2. Yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life (John 5:40)
 - b.ii.3. Be on our guard. This was the sin that brought the Fall. We need to pray to be delivered from pride, unbelief, and worldliness. Of these three, none is greater than unbelief.

2021 PCCC Corporation Meeting Highlights

