

# The kingdom of heaven

Matthew 13:44-53

## Introduction

What do you have that you really value? What do you have that is precious to you that you really wouldn't want to ever part with? What makes something so valuable?

Often the things that we regard as being precious don't necessarily have to do with their monetary value. They might be precious to us for all sort of reasons. In this study we are looking at the remaining parables in chapter 13 which have to do with the great value and significance of the kingdom of God/heaven. After leaving the crowds (see 13:36) Jesus told his disciples these parables that revealed more about the kingdom of heaven. Please read verses 44 to 53.

## The treasure parables

In verses 44 and 45 the Lord told his disciples two parables that seem to make much the same point. Please read or review these verses again to understand the point that the Lord was making.

1. What did the man do who found the treasure in the field?
2. What was the merchant doing in the second story and what did he end up doing and why?

### Think about it

In what way is the kingdom like treasure hidden in a field? Why do you think that the Lord would describe the kingdom this way?

In what way is the kingdom like a merchant looking for fine pearls?

What is Jesus teaching the disciples about the kingdom in these two parables?

What makes the kingdom so valuable to you?

What happens to those who don't see the great value of the kingdom?

## The parable of the net

The great value of the kingdom is also revealed in the next parable. Please read again verses 47 to 50.

3. The Lord refers to the end of the age. What is this a reference to (see Matthew 12:32; 13:39-40; 24:3; 28:20)?

4. In what way is the kingdom of heaven like a net that was let down into the lake?

### Think about it

The Lord Jesus was revealing to the disciples how it will be at the end of the age for the wicked and the righteous. Who are the righteous and the wicked?

### Understanding these things

The Lord Jesus when he finished telling the disciples these parables asked them whether they understood these things to which they replied that they did (13:51). Please read verses 51 and 52 where the Lord posed this question and also then explained some of the implications of understanding these things.

5. Why is the teacher of the law who becomes a disciple like the owner of a house?
  
6. The things that the disciples understood were the things about the kingdom that Jesus had been revealing for those with ears to hear. Please spend some time reviewing each of the parables and explain what we understand about the kingdom of heaven from them.
  - a. The parable of the Sower/soils
  
  - b. The parables of the weeds
  
  - c. The parable of the mustard seed.
  
  - d. The parable of the yeast
  
  - e. The parables of the hidden treasure and the pearl
  
  - f. The parable of the net

### Think about it

In this world the kingdom of God might seem insignificant. It might not be obvious in this world what God is doing but the kingdom is growing and spreading and will influence everything in this world. Nothing will be left untouched by it. It will be all that really matters. It is important that we hear this and understand it.

What difference should understanding these things make to our lives?

If the kingdom is so valuable why do you think we so easily forget this?

What has Jesus revealed about the kingdom that you need to remember?

How do believers demonstrate to others the great value of the kingdom of God?