

7/12/26

Sermon Title: The Parable of the Hidden Treasure, the Parable of the Pearl of Great Value, and the Parable of the Net

Preacher: Pastor Kim Soonbae

Scripture Passage: Matthew 13:44-58

The Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls.

⁴⁶ When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

The Parable of the Net

⁴⁷ “Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish.

⁴⁸ When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away.

⁴⁹ This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous

⁵⁰ and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all these things?” Jesus asked.

“Yes,” they replied.

⁵² He said to them, “Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.”

A Prophet Without Honor

⁵³ When Jesus had finished these parables, he moved on from there.

⁵⁴ Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. “Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?” they asked.

⁵⁵ “Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t his mother’s name Mary, and aren’t his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas?”

⁵⁶ Aren’t all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?”

⁵⁷ And they took offense at him.

But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own town and in his own home.”

⁵⁸ And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

Jesus added three more brief parables about the kingdom of heaven to the Parable of the Seed Falling on Four Kinds of Soil, the Parable of the Weeds, the Parable of the Mustard Seed, and the Parable of the Yeast.

These are the Parable of the Hidden Treasure, the Parable of the Pearl of Great Value, and the Parable of the Net.

Through these parables, Jesus teaches the incomparable value of the kingdom of heaven, the different responses of those who discover it and their ultimate destiny, and the mission entrusted to His disciples.

To the spiritually blind crowds, Jesus compared the kingdom of heaven to a treasure hidden in a field and a pearl of great value.

He first spoke the Parable of the Hidden Treasure.

Through this parable, Jesus emphasizes the incomparable worth of the kingdom of heaven.

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

The kingdom of heaven is hidden from plain sight.

As a result, many people fail to discover it.

But the one who does find it gladly sells all that he has in order to obtain it, because he recognizes its incomparable value.

Jesus then tells the Parable of the Pearl of Great Value.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls.

⁴⁶ When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

A merchant was searching for fine pearls when he discovered one pearl of great value.

Recognizing its incomparable worth, he went away, sold everything he owned, and bought that pearl.

The pearl of great value represents the kingdom of heaven that Jesus came to bring.

Anyone who thinks rationally will gladly give up everything they possess in order to obtain something of far greater value.

They do so because they recognize that what they have found is worth infinitely more than everything they already own.

That is why, after encountering Jesus Christ, the Apostle Paul regarded everything he had once considered gain as loss—even as rubbish—in comparison with Christ.

(Phil 3:7) But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.

(Phil 3:7) What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ

⁴⁷ “Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish.

⁴⁸ When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away.

⁴⁹ This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous

⁵⁰ and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

The sea represents the world, the fish of every kind represent all the people of the world, and the time when the net is pulled ashore represents the final day of judgment.

On that day, every person will stand before God, the righteous Judge.

He will send His angels to separate the wicked from the righteous.

The wicked will be thrown into the fiery furnace, where "there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

This parable portrays what will take place in God's heavenly courtroom on the Day of Judgment.

One striking truth emerges from this parable.

The wicked who are separated and cast into the fiery furnace had remained in the same net as the righteous until the angels separated them.

In other words, they had been among the community of the righteous.

Likewise, within the visible church of this world, both the righteous and the wicked exist side by side.

Not everyone who is in the church is truly righteous, and not everyone who attends church will enter the kingdom of heaven.

Only those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ and have been cleansed by His precious blood and declared righteous will inherit eternal life.

After finishing His parables about the kingdom of heaven, Jesus asked His disciples whether they had understood everything He had taught them.

Then, having confirmed that they understood the mysteries of the kingdom, He spoke to them about their mission.

Jesus described His disciples as scribes who have been trained for the kingdom of heaven, and He compared them to the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom treasures that are both new and old.

⁵¹ "Have you understood all these things?" Jesus asked.

“Yes,” they replied.

⁵² He said to them, “Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.”

The disciples who heard and understood the gospel became scribes instructed in the kingdom of heaven.

A disciple not only understands Jesus' teaching and follows Him but also, like a scribe, teaches God's Word to others.

The old treasures and the new treasures refer to the truths of the Old Testament and the New Testament.

Jesus' disciples have been entrusted with the responsibility of being scribes of the kingdom of heaven, teaching the truths of both the Old and New Testaments. Therefore, just as Jesus revealed the mysteries of the kingdom that had been hidden since the foundation of the world through His parables, His disciples are likewise called to interpret and teach the treasures hidden in both Testaments from the perspective of Christ.

After Jesus had finished teaching these parables, He returned to His hometown. There, He began teaching in the synagogue.

Yet the people of His hometown rejected Him.

⁵³ When Jesus had finished these parables, he moved on from there.

⁵⁴ Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. “Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?” they asked.

⁵⁵ “Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t his mother’s name Mary, and aren’t his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas?”

⁵⁶ Aren’t all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?”

⁵⁷ And they took offense at him.

But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own town and in his own home."

⁵⁸ And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

The people of Jesus' hometown had known Him since He was a child.

They had watched Him grow up and were familiar with every aspect of His life.

They knew His family's circumstances and His relatives well.

Because of their familiarity with Him, they could not accept Him as the Son of God, the Messiah.

Even after witnessing His extraordinary wisdom and mighty works, they rejected Him and refused to believe in Him.

Jesus was not surprised by their response.

He said that this was often the experience of a prophet—that "a prophet is not without honor except in his own town and in his own home."

Because of their unbelief, He did not perform many miracles there.

The people of Nazareth allowed their prejudice and unbelief to keep them from receiving the wonderful grace and blessings that could have been theirs.

The gospel is the power of God that brings salvation.

But that power is experienced only by those who believe.

Those who refuse to believe cannot receive its saving blessings.

Beloved members of Church of Godly Dreams,

The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field and like a pearl of great value.

It possesses a worth that cannot be compared with anything this world has to offer.

Why?

Because the kingdom of heaven offers eternal life.

For what good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his own soul? That is why those who truly understand the value of the kingdom are willing to give up everything in order to obtain it.

The kingdom of heaven is given by the grace of God.

Yet receiving that grace requires a wholehearted response of faith—a decision to entrust one's entire life to God.

To embrace the kingdom, we must be willing to lay down everything this world offers.

Just as the man who found the hidden treasure and the merchant who found the pearl of great value sold all they possessed to obtain them, we must gladly surrender the priorities of this world and make Christ the supreme priority of our lives.

The Apostle Paul did exactly that.

After encountering Jesus Christ, he regarded everything he had once considered gain as loss—even as rubbish—because nothing compared with the surpassing worth of knowing Christ.

The decision of faith determines our eternal destiny.

For now, the righteous and the wicked live together in this world.

But the Day of Judgment is coming.

Those who have received Jesus Christ and followed Him by faith will enter the kingdom of heaven with great joy.

Those who reject Him will be thrown into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Once God's judgment is pronounced, it is final and eternal.

There will be no opportunity to reverse the verdict.

There will be no second chance for those who have rejected Christ.

That is why now is the time while the door of God's grace remains open.
Today is the day to return to God.

Jesus also tells those who have made the decision of faith and left everything to follow Him that they are not to stop at receiving salvation.
They are to become scribes instructed in the kingdom of heaven, faithfully teaching the truths of both the Old and New Testaments through the person and work of Jesus Christ to those who have not yet come to faith.

This is the mission Christ has entrusted to every one of His disciples.
We must never be content with our own salvation alone.
We are called to proclaim the truth of God's Word as scribes of the kingdom, because God's desire is that all people should come to repentance and be saved.

Therefore, do not cling to this world; cling to Jesus Christ.
Do not stake your life on what is temporary, but live for the everlasting kingdom of God.
As disciples who have received God's Word, faithfully fulfill your calling to proclaim the gospel.
And on that final Day of Judgment, may each one of us stand before our Lord with joy and inherit His eternal kingdom.

May God grant this to us all, in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen.