

Matthew 13:34-35, 44-52 – The Veiled Kingdom Valued

Introduction: Kingdom Visualized

1. The Prophet Asaph prophesied Jesus speaking in parables (Ps 78:2-3)
 - a. Both spoke in riddles to conceal truth and later reveal truth
 - b. Jesus recapitulates Israel's redemptive history to fulfill what Israel failed to do
2. Jesus uses parables in the inaugurated Kingdom of God (KOG) to disclose what was previously hidden

Main Point: The Kingdom of Heaven, its King, and the message of the Kingdom is of supreme, incomparable value. It is a treasure. Nothing of worth can measure up to its worth. Those who love the Kingdom willingly, whole-heartedly, give everything for it. These inherit eternal life. Those who refuse to receive the Kingdom of God are dead fish that will be thrown away at the end of the age.

Kingdom Veiled, Now Vivified (Matthew 13:51-52)

1. The KOG and the message of the Kingdom was hidden
2. The Lord Jesus in His person and works reveals the KOG – represented in the presence of Christ in the midst of His people
 - a. Salvation and the reality of eternal life is the very presence and rule of Jesus Christ
 - b. The reign of Heaven is the submission of believers who have seen the KOG and entered into it by new birth
 - c. Without new birth, the KOG cannot be seen or entered into
 - d. Some are still blind to the KOG
 - e. Receiving Christ, is receiving the KOG – you submit to His rule
3. Belief in Jesus means the KOG was revealed – what was once hidden has become plain to you – old and new treasures revealed
 - a. The treasure once concealed in the Master's house, revealed

Kingdom Value (Matthew 13:44-46)

1. The KOG is esteemed and treasured by those who encounter it
 - a. *Man in field & pearl merchant sells all to have this treasure*
 - b. Rabbinic law forbade finder's keepers; whatever is in a field belongs to the landowner – to remove it was theft
 - c. The one who discovers the KOG sees the incomparable value
2. The entrance of the KOG was obvious – Jesus preached the Gospel and accompanied His preaching with miraculous works
 - a. The Problem is that Christ and the KOG are hidden unless the Holy Spirit opens the mind to understand and the eyes to see it
 - b. Those who are born again see the infinite worth of it and enter into it by the power of the Holy Spirit and Grace of God
3. Following Jesus means leaving the world behind; letting it all go
 - a. **See Matthew 10:37-39 and 19:21-22**

4. The KOG started small, but has grown into a large plant
 - a. Having Jesus is obtaining the KOG, for it is the salvation Christ offers... it is eternal life
 - b. The KOG is of infinite worth; all else is worthless (Phil 3:7-8)
 - c. Fruitfulness in your life demonstrates the worth of the KOG to you: Is the KOG precious and valuable to you?

Kingdom Vested (Given and Acquired) (Matthew 13:44-46)

1. A transaction occurs, not that the KOG can be bought, but that the man and merchant decide, or choose to sell everything
 - a. The Bible does not teach decisional regeneration, meaning you decide whether or not you are born again (see John 3)
 - b. The Bible does teach that after you are born again, you must choose to repent of sin and believe in Jesus for forgiveness
 - i. Salvation apart from the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit in new birth is impossible
 - ii. Salvation apart from repentance and belief doesn't exist
 - iii. The statement, *God chose me* and *I chose Christ* are both true, but in the ultimate sense we choose Christ *because* God chose us (See John 15:16)
2. There is a reason a believer finds the KOG priceless and valuable It is because the Lord set His love on the believer in eternity past
 - a. A Christian loves Christ because He loved them first

Kingdom Verve (Matthew 13:44b)

1. The man in the field sold everything with JOY!!!!
 - a. This acquisition of the KOG is not reluctant; no twisting of the arm was required – no such thing as giving Jesus a try!!!
 - b. No one receives the Gospel of the KOG unenthusiastically
 - c. No one can convince you to enter the KOG once the Spirit opens your eyes to see the KOG – it is irresistible!!!!
2. The Cross is no longer foolishness, God is no longer an enemy!
3. Jesus becomes a treasure and a reward – our Joy! (Isaiah 55:1-3)

Kingdom Verdict (Matthew 13:47-50)

1. The last parable is a warning and a blessing
2. The good fish (the righteous) are those who enter the KOG with joy and see the KOG as precious and priceless
3. The bad fish (the wicked) are those who refuse the King, finding Jesus unworthy of their time, their love, their worship
 - a. These will be gathered and burned under the wrath of God (See Matthew 13:40-43)
 - b. The wicked cannot let go of the world
4. The decision to follow Jesus and inherit the KOG is an eternally weighty matter
5. *Have you understood these things? Yes or No? (Mt 13:51-52)*