

TREASURE THE TREASURE

I. [Matthew 13:1-3a](#) [Matthew 13:10-17](#) [Matthew 13:44-46](#) [Philippians 3:7-11](#)

A. One day a large crowd gathered to hear Jesus speak, perhaps to see some miracles too, and one of the gospels says people came from many different towns to hear Him. Picture folks coming from all the towns in Fairfield, Licking, & Perry Counties, here to shores of Buckeye Lake just to hear Jesus and see what He might do. **Matthew 13:1-3a** (ESV) says: *1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. (Sea of Galilee; Sea of Tiberias; Lake Gennesaret) 2 And great crowds gathered about Him, so that He got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. 3 And He told them many things in parables... (Jesus could adapt to any setting and speaking from the boat likely allowed Him to speak to thousands of folks and be well heard. At church camp when a counselor give a talk from a rowboat they called it a Galilean service.)*

B. Parables were illustrative stories that clarified and confounded: True seekers got better understanding while religious leaders left scratching their heads. *(We hope you never leave here scratching your heads unless it's really itching and then we urge you to seek medical attention.)* **Matthew 13:10-17** (ESV) says: *10 Then the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" 11 And He answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. 12 For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. 13 This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. 14 Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: (Isaiah 6:9-10) "You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive." 15 For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.' 16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. 17 For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it. (And Blessed are your eyes and ears as well!)*

C. If you read through Matthew 13, you'll read seven of Jesus' parables. They include: *The Parable of the Sower; The Parable of the Weeds; The Parable of the Mustard Seed; The Parable of the Leaven; The Parable of Hidden Treasure; The Parable of the Pearl of Great Value; and The Parable of the Net.* Some of these are explained while others are clearly obvious. But today I want to focus on the two-fold *Parable of Hidden Treasure* and the *Pearl of Great Value or Price.*

D. **Matthew 13:44-46** (ESV) are the Words of Jesus: *44 The 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. 45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, 46 who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. (Both of these parables essentially teach the same lesson...)*

E. I was painting our shed a few weeks ago, between days of rain and sunshine. One day when walking over to our picnic table to fetch some more paint, I stepped on something. It felt like a stone and so I bent over to remove it and soon realized it was

bigger than I first thought. So I used my shoe to uncover a little more and then realized it was actually metal and not a stone. Then I got a hoe out of the shed, broke up the ground a little more, and realized it was no small piece of metal. So then I got out a shovel and started digging and prying but it was way more deep. Then Mark called for another reason and I started telling him about it and he said he'd be right over with a crowbar and a tool they use when splitting logs. The log-spitting device was just the ticket and we pried this nearly 3 foot metal rod up out of the ground. Now had this thing had been made of pure gold, I'd really have a pretty awesome sermon illustration. But I'm afraid all I have is an unsolved mystery and probably one not worth solving. But suffice to say, interesting things can be buried in the ground--both treasures and mysteries!

F. Volumes of books have been written about the Kingdom of God. Here's a simple definition of the Kingdom of God: The place where the Fatherly rule of God, the rulership realm of the King of kings, inhabited by the Spirit-born children of God, will live forevermore in the holy and blissful presence of our Almighty Triune God. With a taste of it now, in that ultimate place of splendor we will worship the One who made the way for us to live with Him forever via the sacrifice of Himself on the cross, achieving a crushing victory over sin and death, demonstratively displayed by His resurrection from the dead. (2 Cor 5:21; Gal. 3:13; John 3:16...)

G. This King & His Kingdom are liken to Treasure, now unearthed, and more precious than silver, gold, or diamonds. All other possessions are worthless in comparison! (*Sorta like this rusty metal rod!*) Our Treasure is Jesus Christ and He bids you to be His if you're not already. He bids all who already know Him to lead others to this same Treasure. English doctor and African missionary, **David Livingstone said: "*I will place no value on anything I have or may possess, except in relation to the kingdom of Christ. If anything will advance the interests of that kingdom, it shall be given away or kept only in reference to whether giving or keeping will most promote the glory of Him to whom I owe all my hopes in time and eternity.*" **Some treasure their health. Treasure this instead: Your disease of sin, which is terminal, is healed by His stripes, a remission that's everlasting, a wellness unending, a joy unspeakable, a glory unfathomable! Christ is the Treasure!****

H. Philippians 3:7-11 (NASB) tells us how Paul prized the Treasure: *7 But whatever things were gain to me, these things I have counted as loss because of Christ. 8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them mere rubbish, so that I may gain Christ, 9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; 11 if somehow I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.*

*** Close with Prayer...**

[Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff](#)

[Matthew 13:1-3a \(ESV\)](#)

1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. **2** And great crowds gathered about Him, so that He got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. **3** And He told them many things in parables...

Matthew 13:10-17 (ESV)

10 Then the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?"
11 And He answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. **12** For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. **13** This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. **14** Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: "'You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive.'" **15** For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.' **16** But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. **17** For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

Matthew 13:44-46 (ESV)

44 The 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.
45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, **46** who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Philippians 3:7-11 (NASB)

7 But whatever things were gain to me, these things I have counted as loss because of Christ. **8** More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them mere rubbish, so that I may gain Christ, **9** and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, **10** that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; **11** if somehow I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Quote by David Livingstone

"I will place no value on anything I have or may possess, except in relation to the kingdom of Christ. If anything will advance the interests of that kingdom, it shall be given away or kept only in reference to whether giving or keeping will most promote the glory of Him to whom I owe all my hopes in time and eternity."

Bonus Goodies

"Jesus, My Treasure" - Equip Church International

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nfv2fsUOxv4>

The Kingdom of Heaven is a Treasure - John Piper
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ABfkbeG6bU>

The Spurgeon Archive (Unknown Tidbits About the Great Preacher) by Eric W. Hayden
<https://archive.spurgeon.org/spurng2.php>

Charles Spurgeon: Preaching Through Adversity - John Piper
<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/charles-spurgeon-preaching-through-adversity>

The Freebie Roundup #131 (Free Christian Stuff)
<https://delightinggrace.wordpress.com/2022/05/09/the-freebie-round-up-131/>

9 Myths About Abortion and Roe v. Wade - Kevin DeYoung (The Gospel Coalition)
<https://kevindeyoung.org/9-myths-about-abortion-rights-and-roe-v-wade/>

[More Verses, Quotes, Excerpts, & Extras](#)

[Isaiah 6:8-10 \(ESV\)](#)

8 And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.” **9** And He said, “Go, and say to this people: “Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.’ **10** Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.”

[Luke 4:38-44 \(ESV\)](#)

38 And He arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to Him on her behalf. **39** And He stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them. **40** Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to Him, and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them. **41** And demons also came out of many, crying, “You are the Son of God!” But He rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that He was the Christ. **42** And when it was day, He departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought Him and came to Him, and would have kept Him from leaving them, **43** but He said to them, “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.” **44** And He was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

[Revelation 4:1-11 \(ESV\)](#)

1 After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” **2** At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with One seated on the throne. **3** And He who sat there had the

appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald. **4** Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads. **5** From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God, **6** and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal. And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: **7** the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. **8** And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, *“Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!”* **9** And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, **10** the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who is seated on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, **11** “Worthy are You, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they existed and were created.”

Revelation 11:15-18 (ESV)

15 Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever.” **16** And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God, **17** saying, “We give thanks to You, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for You have taken Your great power and begun to reign. **18** The nations raged, but Your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding Your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear Your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth.”

Revelation 21:1-8 (ESV)

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. **2** And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God. **4** He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” **5** And He who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also He said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” **6** And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. **7** The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be My son. **8** But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

Quote by Os Guinness

"Jesus made clear that the Kingdom of God is organic and not organizational. It grows like a seed and it works like leaven: secretly, invisibly, surprisingly, and irresistibly."

Quote by R.C. Sproul

"The only way the kingdom of God is going to be manifest in this world before Christ comes is if we manifest it by the way we live as citizens of heaven and subjects of the King."

Quote by Charles Colson

"It is not what we do that matters, but what a sovereign God chooses to do through us. God doesn't want our success; He wants us. He doesn't demand our achievements; He demands our obedience. The Kingdom of God is a kingdom of paradox, where through the ugly defeat of a cross, a holy God is utterly glorified. Victory comes through defeat; healing through brokenness; finding self through losing self."

Quote by Dallas Willard

"We are built to live in the kingdom of God. It is our natural habitat."

Quote by Charles H. Spurgeon

"There is nothing remarkable in us, we are in ourselves poor, frail fragile creatures, like earthen vessels of no particular value, yet this we do not regret, for there is a good reason for it: The most earnest and faithful minister of the gospel must ever remember that humbling truth. He has this precious treasure of the gospel entrusted to his charge; he knows he has it, and he means to keep it safely, but, still, he is nothing but an earthen vessel, easily broken, soon marred, a poor depository for such priceless truth. Yet God has a good reason for putting this treasure into earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. If angels had been commissioned to preach the gospel, we might have attributed some of its power to their superior intelligence, and if only those had been called to preach the gospel who were men of great intellect and of profound learning, we might have considered that the talent of man was the essential qualification for a preacher. But when God selects, as He often does, nay, as He always does--earthen vessels, and some that seem more manifestly earthen than others, then the excellency of the power is unquestionably seen to be of God, and not of us."

- Charles H. Spurgeon, *Expositional Notes on 2 Corinthians 4*.

Quote by Oswald Chambers

"God can achieve his purpose either through the absence of human power and resources, or the abandonment of reliance on them. All through history God has chosen and used nobodies, because their unusual dependence on Him made possible the unique display of His power and grace. He chose and used somebodies only when they renounced dependence on their natural abilities and resources."

Treasure Finds Craig Randall

Kent Crocket

Craig Randall drove his garbage truck to Wendy's restaurant to pick up their trash and drove away \$200,000 richer. The previous week when he stopped at Wendy's, he rummaged through the garbage and pulled a contest sticker off a cup. That time he won a free chicken sandwich. This time he found a cup and figured, "Hey, I'd like to get some free fries to go with it." When he pulled the sticker off, it read: "Congratulations! You have won \$200,000." Someone who had eaten in the restaurant hadn't taken the time to pull off the sticker before throwing it away. To one person it was trash. To another, treasure.

Rob Cutshaw's Big Blue Rock

John MacArthur

Rob Cutshaw owned a little roadside shop outside Andrews, North Carolina. Cutshaw hunts for rocks, then sells them to collectors or jewelry makers. He knows enough about rocks to decide which to pick up and sell, but he's no expert. He leaves the appraising of his rocks to other people. As much as he enjoys the work, it doesn't always pay the bills. He occasionally moonlights, cutting wood to help put bread on the table. Thirty some years ago, Rob found a rock he described as "purdy and big." He tried unsuccessfully to sell the specimen, and according to the Atlanta Constitution (May 17, 1987), kept the rock under his bed or in his closet. He guessed the blue chunk could bring as much as \$500 dollars, but he would have taken less if something urgent came up like paying his power bill. That's how close Rob came to hawking for a few hundred dollars what turned out to be the largest, most valuable sapphire ever found. The blue rock that Rob had abandoned to the darkness of a closet two decades ago -- now known as "The Star of David" sapphire -- weighs nearly a pound, and could easily sell for \$2.75 million.

- John MacArthur, *Grace to You* Newsletter, April 15, 1993.

The Gospel of the Kingdom

Ligonier Ministries - The Teaching Fellowship of R.C. Sproul

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/gospel-kingdom/>

"Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them, 'The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, nor will they say, "Look, here it is!" or "There!" for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.'"

- [Luke 17:20-21](#)

The book of Romans is well known as Paul's most comprehensive presentation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Yet the Apostle's teaching on the gospel does not exist in a vacuum; rather, it presupposes and is connected with the other presentations in the Bible regarding the good news of salvation. In order to help us see how the perspectives of the other biblical authors on the gospel fit in with Paul's exposition of the book of Romans, we are now going to pause our study of this epistle for a two-day look

at what the rest of Scripture says about the good news. Dr. R.C. Sproul's teaching series *What Is the Gospel?* will guide our consideration of this important topic.

You will note that we have used the phrase good news of salvation synonymously with the word gospel in the previous paragraph, and with good reason. That is because *euangelion*, the Greek word we translate into English as "gospel," literally means "good news" or "good message." In biblical times, *euangelion* could refer to any piece of favorable news, including reports that a city's army had been victorious in battle. The authors of Scripture took the term and invested it with new meaning based on divine revelation, so that now we as Christians use the word gospel to speak of the good message of salvation.

In the New Testament, we find the term gospel on the lips of Jesus Himself ([Matt. 26:13](#)). Christ uses the word most often in connection with the kingdom of God; thus, the Evangelists can speak of Jesus proclaiming "the gospel of the kingdom" (9:35). From Genesis to Revelation, we see the Lord's servants longing for the kingdom of God to come. Put most simply, the kingdom of God is that place where His reign is recognized openly and gladly ([Isa. 52:7](#)). When we speak of the kingdom of God, we do not mean to imply that there are places over which the Lord does not currently reign, for our Creator sovereignly rules over all ([Ps. 9:7–8](#)). However, since the fall of Adam, His realm has been in open rebellion against Him (Gen. 3). Men and women do not willingly or happily embrace, submit to, and rejoice in God's reign, and because of that they forfeit many blessings.

For people to recognize God's kingdom, our Lord had to act and overcome humanity's suppression of the knowledge that He is King and that we are to be His loyal subjects. This He did in the person and work of Jesus Christ, who as the second person of the Trinity and victor over sin and death now reigns as King of kings and Lord of lords ([Rev. 19:16](#)).

Coram Deo

With the coming of Christ, the kingdom of God is now evident among His people even as we wait for its final consummation at His return. The gospel announces that Jesus has done the work necessary to overcome our natural resistance to God's kingdom and to make us citizens of this kingdom through faith alone. As we preach the gospel, we are announcing the blessed reign of the Lord, and we must repeat His command that all people everywhere repent and bow to His rule.