

sermonnotes

Parables: Part 1

The parables are not just stories, but riddles to be unlocked and word pictures to help us gain understanding of the principles of God's Kingdom.

Matthew 13:44–46

As we look to the two parables we need to ask, "Are we represented by the man or the treasure?" "Are we represented by the merchant or the pearl?" How we answer these questions changes the _____ of the truth revealed.

In the parable of the treasure, the man represents Jesus. He discovered a treasure, being you, and sells all He has—He gives His life to purchase the treasure. (John 3:16–17)

In the parable of the pearl, the merchant represents Jesus. He discovers a pearl of great value and sells all He has—He gives His life to purchase the pearl. (Matthew 18:12–13)

God is not the One who is hidden or lost, we are. God is the One doing the _____ and He has paid the ultimate _____ of sending His Son to die that we might have life.

Truth to Live

1. Your value is determined by whose _____ you bear. (Genesis 1:26–27, 31)
 - Don't allow the people around you, the circumstances you have experienced, or the world you live in to determine your value. God declares that you are His treasure.
2. You are so _____ to God that He paid the ultimate price. (John 15:13)
 - What is a thing worth? It is worth what someone is willing to pay for it.
3. People may see you as damaged goods or junk, but God sees you as a valued _____. (Romans 5:8)
 - Christ sees our value in spite of all of the broken, messy, value-distorting fears and sin we have covered ourselves in. He set aside His divine privileges and takes the form of a baby in a manger.

On the cross, Jesus was the man and the merchant who sold everything He had to pay for the treasure that had been hidden and the pearl of great price to Him. In Christ, you were bought with a price, so now live as one truly valued by God.

Answers: application; searching, price; image; valuable; treasure;

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