

CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF

THE PARABLES OF JESUS



July 1, 2018

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The “Right Now” Radiance of the “Kingdom Pearl” (Matthew 13:45-46)

“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.” Matthew 13: 45-46

The *Present* Value of the Kingdom: Four Considerations

1. To possess the “pearl” is to have “every day _____.”

^{ESV} **Isaiah 49:5** And now the LORD says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him – for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD, and my God has become my strength

^{ESV} **Galatians 6:16** And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

^{ESV} **Acts 17:16** Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷ So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there.

2. To possess the “pearl” is to have “relationship-guarding _____.”

^{ESV} **Ezekiel 36:26** And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes ...

^{ESV} **John 14:16** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,

^{ESV} **John 16:13** When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth,

3. To possess the “pearl” is to have “_____ against loss.”

^{ESV} **Philippians 3:8** Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.

4. To possess the “pearl” is to have “shame-evaporating _____.”

^{ESV} **Jeremiah 31:34** ...For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

^{ESV} **Isaiah 40:9** Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" ¹⁰ Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹ He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Digging Deeper

This week's passages:

Monday: Matthew 13:36-50

Tuesday: I Timothy 1: 12-20

Wednesday: Matthew 13:45-16; Isaiah 49:1-7

Thursday: Ezekiel 36: 22-29

Friday: Philippians 3:7-14

Weekend: Isaiah 40:1-11

Each day this week you are invited to read the day's passage and then respond to the following questions. Take special note of what God is saying to you. You might find it beneficial to use a journal or notebook to record insights.

1. Read the passage prayerfully, listening for the voice of God and asking him to speak to you.
2. Record or write down the word, phrase, or verse that God impresses upon you.
3. Reflect and write down what it is about this word, phrase or verse that is meaningful to you.
4. Respond by writing a prayer or recording what it is that you think the Lord wants you to do in response to his word (“*Be doers of the word and not hearers only*” James 1:22).