

Something Old and Something New

Matthew 13:44-52

Introduction

“Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue.” So goes the old saying about what a bride is to wear on her wedding day. Jesus says the one who understands the kingdom of heaven or kingdom of God is like *the master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old* (**Matthew 13:52**). In other words, Jesus did not come to do away with our past life, but to enrich it. Let’s see how the kingdom of God enriches our life through these parables: *The Treasure in a Field*, *The Pearl of Great Price*, and *The Fishnet*.

The Treasure in a Field

In the first parable, a man is walking in a field that doesn’t belong to him when he finds a treasure hidden there. He excitedly buries it and sells everything he has to buy the field. Of course, the treasure is the kingdom, and the man is us. But what does this teach us about the kingdom of God?

Grace

The man isn’t looking for treasure. He happens to come across it. It finds him. This shows us how the kingdom of God comes to us by grace, not through any work of our own.

Joy

It is with joy the man sells all he has to buy the field. The kingdom of God is worth our lives and all that we have. Life in the kingdom of God is a life of joy.

Choice

The man got the treasure in an underhanded way. Anything on a piece of property belongs to the owner of the land. When the man found the treasure, he had a choice to make. His options were to leave the treasure there for someone else and nothing in his life would change, tell the property owner about it and possibly receive a finder’s fee (which would have been nowhere near the value of the treasure), just take it, which would be illegal, and he wouldn’t be able to keep it if someone found out, or do what he did. Though underhanded, it would still legally be his. The proper choice would have been to turn it in to the owner of the field. What does this tell us about the kingdom of God? The kingdom of God is of such great value that when it finds us, we will do whatever it takes to receive it. We don’t have a choice. Like the man in the parable, who had no choice if he was going to keep the treasure. For us, the kingdom of God is all or nothing.

The Pearl of Great Price

The Pearl of Great Price shows us the value of the kingdom of God. The merchant stumbles across this pearl that is worth more than all the other pearls there are. He must have it. There are many philosophies and many religions in this world, all claiming to have a way to live and a way to find wholeness. But Jesus said, *“I am the Way and the Truth and the Life”* (**John 14:6**). The kingdom of God is worth more than all these other philosophies and religions combined.

The Fishnet

The parable of The Fishnet is a little different. Look how the net is used in the Bible from these examples from **Ezekiel** (read **Ezekiel 12:13; 17:20;** and **32:3**). The net is a symbol of judgement and that's what the parable is about. It shows why the kingdom of God is of such value, why we do whatever we can to obtain it, and why it brings such joy. At the end, all those outside the kingdom of God will be condemned by God to eternal damnation in hell, *where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth* (**Matthew 13:50**).

Something New

All these things we've talked about were the old treasures of the kingdom, except what we said about Jesus being the only Way into it. Up until the time of Jesus, the way to be in the kingdom of God was to be born into the Israelite nation or be a proselyte and convert to Judaism. But by fulfilling the Law with His holy life and dying a holy, innocent death on the cross, Jesus became the only Way into the kingdom of God. He is the "something new."

Means of Grace

When the Holy Spirit works faith in us, through the Word of God or Holy Baptism, we gain entrance into the kingdom through the blood of Jesus. When we receive Holy Communion, He continues to forgive our sins and strengthen our faith by the eating and drinking of His body and blood. This is our **SOMETHING OLD AND SOMETHING NEW**. Jesus Christ, our way into the kingdom of God and eternal life

*And the peace of God,
Which surpasses all understanding,
Will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*
