

Rev. Thomas Emery
“Finding Joyous Treasure” Matthew 13:44-46
Salem Presbyterian Church
Sunday, July 27, 2014

Our scripture lesson consists of twin parables about the Kingdom of God. The first says the Kingdom is like treasure hidden in a field. A man discovered it one day, perhaps when plowing. As soon as he did, he quickly buried it again. Then he gathered all his assets and purchased that field in which the treasure was buried. Jesus' hearers would have understood that parable instantly. There were no banks in those days for ordinary people. Treasures of various kinds were buried in the ground.

The second parable is similar to the first. It tells of a merchant who discovered a magnificent pearl. The pearl was the diamond of the ancient world, the most precious of stones. The merchant was so captivated by this particular pearl that he sold all that he had in order to be able to purchase it.

TEACHING POINTS

Teaching Point One: *The Kingdom is a present reality.* When Jesus talked about the Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of heaven (the two terms are interchangeable), He was talking about the reign of God in human hearts. It is here and now waiting for us to stumble upon it.

Teaching Point Two: *The Kingdom requires that we are willing to give everything we have to purchase it now.* The kingdom of God is not something we enter someday when we die. It is not even something we have to strive for.

Teaching Point Three: *Having Christ in our lives is worth more than any treasure we can ever dream about.*

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure, hidden in a field, that a person found and hid. Then because of joy he went and sold all that he had and bought that field” (Matthew 13:44 NET).

ACTION POINT

The greatest joy on earth is to know God personally, to live in the center of his will, to be powered by his Holy Spirit, to be secure in his love, and to be busy in his service. The natural inclination of the person in whose life God reigns is joy. Why not seek God first in your life and discover the joyous treasure! Give God your will and your life with all its time, talents, and possessions to be used for His glory. Where God is, there is light. Where God is, there is love. Where God is, there is joy!