

Jesus the Teacher...

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Our Gospel today contains a collection of parables that Jesus used to teach his disciples about the kingdom of heaven. These parables provide insights into the nature of the kingdom and the response that is expected from those who seek to enter it.

In the first parable, Jesus talks about a treasure hidden in a field. When a man discovers it, he sells everything he has and buys the field. This parable illustrates the value and worth of the kingdom of heaven. It is like a hidden treasure that is worth sacrificing everything. The man in the parable recognized the true worth of the treasure and was willing to give up all his possessions to possess it. The lesson here is that the kingdom of heaven is of infinite value and should be our utmost priority in life. It is worth giving up everything – our desires, possessions, and ambitions – to obtain it.

The second parable is about a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds one of great value, he sells everything he has to buy it. This parable reinforces the message of the previous one – the kingdom of heaven is of unparalleled worth. Like the merchant, we should be willing to give up everything for the sake of the kingdom. This means not only material possessions but also our pride, desires, and worldly ambitions. The kingdom of heaven demands our total commitment and devotion.

The third parable is the parable of the net. It describes the final judgment and separation of the righteous and the wicked. It emphasizes the importance of making the right choices in life. Just as the net gathers fish of every kind, so the kingdom of heaven welcomes people from every background and walks of life. But not all who claim to be part of the kingdom will be accepted. In the parable, the good fish are separated from the bad ones, illustrating the final judgment. This parable encourages us to live a life that is pleasing to God, knowing that our choices have eternal consequences. The kingdom of heaven is not a completely new concept but is founded on the promises and prophecies of the Old Testament. It is a fulfillment of God's plan throughout history.

Lastly, Jesus asks his disciples if they understand all these parables. They reply affirmatively, and Jesus tells them that every teacher of the law who has been instructed about the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out both new and old treasures. This statement emphasizes the importance of understanding the teachings of the kingdom of heaven. Those who are well-versed

in the Scriptures and have received instruction about the kingdom have a responsibility to share both the old and new treasures with others. They are called to be teachers and stewards of the kingdom, passing on the knowledge and wisdom they have received.

As we reflect on these parables, we are reminded of the importance of seeking and valuing the kingdom of heaven above all else. It challenges us to examine our priorities and make sure we are investing our time, resources, and energy in the things that truly matter. It calls us to a life of selflessness and total commitment, trusting that the reward of the kingdom far surpasses anything we could obtain in this world.

Furthermore, these parables encourage us to be diligent in understanding and studying the Scriptures, so that we can be effective teachers and stewards of the kingdom. We are called to share the old and new treasures with others, helping them to understand and embrace the message of the kingdom. This requires humility, perseverance, and a genuine love for God's word. May we strive to understand and apply these teachings in our lives, so that we may live in accordance with the values and principles of the kingdom of heaven.