

## Treasuring Salvation 10-03-2021

*Matthew 13:44 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.*

*Matthew 13:45-46 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it."*

Jesus used parable to elaborate on characteristics of the kingdom of heaven. In these two parables, Jesus is describing the value of the inheritance of eternal life, and the nature of obtaining it. The value is immeasurable, and the cost is everything.

But the question becomes, how do we "treasure" this treasure of eternal life, the inheritance of the kingdom? We might consider some of the admonitions of the book of Hebrews in order to clarify this.

First, Hebrews 2:1-4 tells us that we must be careful not to neglect our salvation. Salvation must be cared and nurtured; that means it needs to be nourished and fed and given attention as though it is a living thing. Being untouched, unused leads to decay.

Second, Hebrews 4:1-3 says that our promise of salvation must be saved for a particular day. Consider that it is on this day, the Day of Judgment, we present our treasure for exchange. But what if we are not prepared for it? If we are not ready at any time, we may miss out on the reward, and missing out means missing everything; there is no alternate exchange.

Third, Hebrews 6:4-8 warns us to be careful with how we live our lives. We must remember that salvation must be carefully handled. It cannot be exposed to sin or discarded. Our gift from God is fragile; being dropped leads to damage.

Fourth, Hebrews 10:26-29 tells us that our gift of Salvation can be invalidated when we fail to meet the terms. In that passage the writer reminds us not to forsake the assembly; doing so is a willful sin that treats the reward disrespectfully. When we do so, it loses its value.

Finally, Hebrews 12:14-17 reminds us of the story of Esau. Salvation can be given up, traded for something as meaningless as a meal. In Esau's case, he came back for it too late. If we lose it and the time comes, there is no hope when the time comes.

But what if we have mistreated, damaged or lost our gift of God? What can we do if the time has not yet come, and we realize we have forsaken the treasure? The Word has good news for us in the language of the parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15. There the son squandered his father's gift, and then returned to his father. When his father (who was a representation of God) saw him, all was forgiven, and a new inheritance was presented. So it is with our Heavenly Father; if we have lost our treasure, we can return to Him and have it renewed.

"Treasure" your salvation. Care for it at any cost and ensure it remains to the end. Maintain it above all else in your life, for it is all that matters.