



BEIJING INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

INTRODUCTION

This study guide will be most helpful if you work through it slowly with an open Bible, looking up all the references. Grab some friends and do it together!



KINGDOM STORIES

PARABLES THAT
INFURIATE OR INSPIRE



Parable of the Hidden
Treasure and Pearl of Great
Price

Review

Matthew 13:22

but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness
of riches choke the word.

MORE
IMPORTANT
THINGS

MORE
VALUABLE
THINGS



*What kept the seed from growing in the third type
of soil?*

Summarize their problem with the Kingdom:

A large empty dashed rectangular box for summarizing the problem with the Kingdom.

**The Kingdom was NOT seen
as a treasure of great value**



*In the book of Matthew, who do we find not
valuing the Kingdom? (See 19:16-22)*

READ MATTHEW 13:44-46

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.”



What is the main idea of these two parables?

Jesus tells these two parables to remind us that the Kingdom is greater than anything this world has to offer us.

Philippians 3:7-8

*But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 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*

Idolatry is valuing anything of more worth than Jesus. In the second parable the merchant viewed the one pearl (The Kingdom) of more worth than all of his other pearls combined.

What are some “pearls” people value more than Jesus?



What are some good questions we can ask to see if WE value these things more than Jesus?

Matthew 6:19-21

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”



Why do we often value the temporal, destructible, decaying things of more value than the eternal?



Where have you placed your treasures? This is a good indicator of where your heart is.



*He is no fool
who gives what he cannot keep
to gain what he cannot lose.*
Jim Elliot

What did Jim Elliot give up for the Kingdom? Do you think it was foolish?

Empty dashed-line box for writing the answer to the question above.

Kingdom Merchants

1

What are some things the **disciples** “sold” in order seek after the Kingdom?

2

What did **Moses** give up in order to seek the Kingdom?

Hebrews 11:24

By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.

What is the reward this verse speaks of?



Knowing Jesus isn't something we have to do; it's something we long to do.

The Christian life is one marked with joy.

On a scale of 1-10 how would you rank the level of joy you experience with Jesus?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Are you satisfied with where you placed your level of joy with Jesus?

How can our joy in Christ increase? (See John 15)



People of Joy

Fill in the blank with those of experienced joy because of Jesus

1

.....

Matthew 2:10

2

.....

John 8:56

3

.....

Matthew 28:1, 8

4

.....

Luke 1:44

5

.....

Luke 24:41, 52

Can you add yourself to this list of people?

John 16:22

So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.

To see Jesus as he truly is should bring us joy. Simply to meet with him should increase our love for him and our awareness of his great worth!

Spend time right now verbally expressing Jesus' worth.

What do you notice about the differences between the two men who found the kingdom?



Surprised

The first man was **NOT** looking for the treasure. He “happened” to find it in a field. In a similar way many people find the kingdom when they were not even looking for it.

Isaiah 65:1

I was ready to be sought by those who did not ask for me; I was ready to be found by those who **did not seek me**. I said, “Here I am, here I am,” to a nation that was not called by my name.

I John 4:16, 19

So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us...We love because he first loved us.



God is drawing us to His Kingdom (even those who don't want to find the Kingdom). How does it feel to know that you were pursued by God?



Do you identify with this kind of person, the one who finds the Kingdom without actually seeking it? If so, how?



Searching

The second man **was** looking for a great pearl. He was a pearl merchant and it was his job to search for pearls. In a similar way there are people today who are seeking for truth or God or true faith. They don't know what it is, but they honestly want to find it.

Jeremiah 29:12-14

Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, **when you seek me with all your heart.** I will be found by you, declares the Lord,

Acts 17:26-27

And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth...that **they should seek God**, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us



*“You have made us for yourself, O Lord,
and our heart is restless until it rests in you.”*

St. Augustine of Hippo



What are some ways God causes us to seek after him?



**EXTRA
DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS**

1 Do these parables teach that the Kingdom can be bought? What do you think it means that he “buys that field”?

2 Read Matthew 6:30-33. What is Jesus saying here? What does it mean to seek God’s kingdom first? Can you give an example of how you’ve sought the kingdom first, or maybe you haven’t?

3 Can you think of another person who was searching for the kingdom and found it? (John 3; Acts 8)

4 What is something God wants you to do in response to this lesson?

5 What in this parable do you not understand?

6 How much do you value your life in Christ? Is there anything you can do to increase your love for Jesus?

SERMON
NOTES:

INTRODUCTION

“Our desires are not too strong, but too weak. We are far too easily pleased.”
-CS Lewis

1

Jesus is the #1 treasure worth pursuing.

What value does Jesus bring to your life (both present and future)?

a

Are you ready to hold-out and consider the cost?

b

Are you ready to sell out (give your all)?

2

I am the treasure that Jesus pursued.

a

You can't catch God unless he's also pursuing you

b

He is pursuing you.