

The Outcome of the Kingdom

January 17th, 2016

Matthew 13:44-50

Today we will take three of the seven parables told in Matthew 13.

Warren Wiersbe groups the three together and says, "At the close of this age, God will have three peoples: the Jews (the hidden treasure), the church (the pearl), and the saved Gentile nations who will enter into the kingdom (the dragnet)."¹

Here we see the miraculous outcome of the Kingdom, even while the Kingdom is still unfolding.

Three parables that give a glimpse into the outcome of the Kingdom:

1. The Hidden Treasure--Israel

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 13:44**

In keeping with the context, the field is the world (Matthew 13:38). The treasure is the nation of Israel:

*Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a **special treasure** to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.* **Exodus 19:5**

*For the LORD has chosen Jacob for Himself, Israel for His **special treasure**.* **Psalms 135:4**

The man who finds the treasure is Jesus or the Son of Man.

"That nation was placed in the world to bring glory to God, but it failed. It became a nation hidden, a treasure not being invested to produce dividends for God. Jesus Christ gave His all to purchase the whole world in order to save the nation (John 11:51). On the cross, Jesus died for the whole world; but in a special way, He died for Israel (Isa. 53:8). The nation suffered judgment and seeming destruction, but in God's sight it is "hidden" and will be revealed again in glory." ~ Warren Wiersbe

There is, then, a future for Israel. Politically, the nation was reborn on May 14, 1948, but the nation is far from what it ought to be spiritually. God sees Israel as His Treasure, and one day He will establish her in her glorious Kingdom.

I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew.

Romans 11:1-2a

And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish." Now this he did not say on his own authority; but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation. **John 11:49-51**

God is in control and has His Plan, which is perfect!

¹ Bible Exposition Commentary (BE Series) - New Testament - The Bible Exposition Commentary – New Testament, Volume 1.

2. The Pearl Of Great Price—The Church

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. **Matthew 13:45-46**

The Merchant Man is Jesus

The Pearl Of Great Price is The Church

JESUS GAVE UP EVERYTHING TO PURCHASE THE PEARL

And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. **John 17:5**

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich. **2 Corinthians 8:9**

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Philippians 2:5-8

Christ came to this earth as the merchantman. He saw man in sin, and He took man's sin and bore it in His own body. Our sin was an intrusion upon Him -- it was that foreign matter, and He was made sin for us. As someone has put it, I got into the heart of Christ by a spear wound. Christ "...was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities..." **Isaiah 53:5**

3. The Dragnet—The Gentile Nations that will enter the Kingdom

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth." **Matthew 13:47-50**

A remnant of the Jews in the Tribulation will see Jesus and come to Him. Others of the nations will come to Him—fish in the Tribulation. The church will have been removed before the rapture but what we see is God's Will and Plan to save those who will come to Him.

"There is always only a remnant that is saved. There was a remnant in Elijah's day; there was a remnant in David's day; there was a remnant in Paul's day; there is a remnant in our day; and there will be a remnant during the Great Tribulation period." ~ Vernon McGee

Jesus loves you. He treasures us, so much so, that He died for us.

Prayer Focus:

Do you know Him, that is, are you a part of God's treasure?

Are you walking and treasuring Him?

Pray that you would treasure God more than anything in the world!