

Short Stories - Epic Truths

Summer 2018

The Kingdom of Heaven is so valuable that we ought to do whatever it takes to attain it.

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.

(Matthew 13:44 ESV)

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.

(Matthew 13:45-46 ESV)

The Kingdom of Heaven is so valuable that we ought to do whatever it takes to attain it.

This parable teaches two truths:

1

The Kingdom of Heaven is of greatest value in life.

What is the Kingdom of Heaven?

It is **NOT**:

- a place you go when you die
- a place you go to escape earth

What is the Kingdom of Heaven?

It IS:

*- The sovereign rule of HEAVEN, the very nature of heaven – the presence of God, breaking through HERE ON EARTH, right here, right now.
(Matthew 6:10)*

- God's plan to unite heaven with earth – made real through the person of Jesus (doing what the temple in the OT represented – the presence of God), bringing heaven and earth together.

- The rule of Jesus over all creation, redeeming and reconciling the world to himself, and putting all things to right.

Why is the Kingdom of Heaven of
greatest value?

1

Total heart transformation is possible.

Why is the Kingdom of Heaven of greatest value?

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Total heart transformation is possible.

2

We have access to the power of the resurrection through the Holy Spirit.

Why is the Kingdom of Heaven of greatest value?

1

Total heart transformation is possible.

2

We have access to the power of the resurrection through the Holy Spirit.

3

It gives us hope.

This parable teaches two truths:

1

The Kingdom of Heaven is of greatest value in life.

2

Humanly speaking, it takes great sacrifice to gain the Kingdom of Heaven.

Why is does it take sacrifice?

*You have to let go of the insignificant
significants to gain the ultimate
significant.*

It's an *all or nothing* invitation
into the Kingdom.

“You have made us for Yourself,
and our hearts are restless until
they find rest in You.”

St. Augustine

The Kingdom of Heaven is so valuable that we ought to do whatever it takes to attain it.

“To become aware of the possibility of the search is to be onto something. Not to be onto something is to be in despair.”

Walker Percy

If the church has any viable message and is not to be laughed out of existence, it has a responsibility to demonstrate the presence of God's Kingdom...Christians have the task of showing the reality of the new age right in the midst of the old. The same Holy Spirit active with Jesus must be evident showing the compassion, the acceptance, the forgiveness, the justice, and the joy that marked Jesus' own ministry. Without that, we have no right to speak of the presence of the Kingdom.

K. Snodgrass

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