Part 2
The Parable of the Hidden Treasure and The Pearl of Great Value

ANOTHER MEANING FOR THESE TWO PARABLES

The other meaning of this parable is the more commonly heard one. This means giving up everything to follow Jesus. Let's look at the two parables again and explain them.

- **Matthew 13:44 (NKJV) "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 (NKJV) "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like God/Jesus hidden in the world, which we found and hid; and for joy over it we go and sell all that we have and follows/accepts Jesus."**
- **Matthew 13:45-46 (NKJV) "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, 46 who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it. "**
- **Matthew 13:45-46 (NKJV) "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like us seeking God, 46 who, when he had found Jesus, went and sold all that he had and followed God/Jesus."**

The interpretation is that the treasure is God/Jesus and His promises. The man is us, and we sell all we have to buy the field with the treasure/pearl, meaning we follow Jesus.

This is a secondary meaning. Let me explain why and give you some scriptures.

To begin with, we can't purchase the kingdom of God. We can't buy Jesus or our way into heaven. It sounds silly when we put it so bluntly. Jesus is a gift to all who believe and accept Him.

However, we don't think this is what most people mean when they read that parable with this kind of interpretation. They aren't saying we are buying the kingdom; they are more likely referring to Jesus as our treasure, and we now follow Him. We can understand that because of Matthew 16:24-25.

Matthew 16:24-25 (NKJV) Then Jesus said to His disciples,

"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

This makes sense. If someone chooses to believe in God/Jesus, they should count the cost and follow Him.

is what some people may not realize, though. We can't come to God on our own. We can't bear fruit on our own. We can't do any of these actions on our own. We need God's help, even from the very first step. Look at these scriptures.
We can do nothing apart from Jesus. We can't even bear fruit apart from Jesus.

- **John 15:4-5 (NKJV) "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 "I am the vine; you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."**
- **We can't come to Jesus unless the Father draws us to Him.**
- **John 6:44 (NKJV) "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him at the last day."**
- **John 6:65 (NKJV) And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father."**

We believe this parable explanation is considered secondary for this very reason. However, it's still 100% true, and we should follow Jesus. Even though this is considered secondary, it's still very important and shouldn't be thrown out the window.

We bring it up that way because that's what the scriptures state. So, regarding this secondary meaning, we find Jesus and follow Him by our own strength. The reality is we couldn't even do that on our own. We still needed God's help. Thanks be to God for His mercy and grace to help us!

This secondary meaning of the parable points us back to the primary meaning we discussed earlier. Jesus buying us back.

Now that we have both explanations of the parables, let's compare.

COMPARING THE PARABLE FIRST AND SECOND MEANING

1. **Primary meaning of the parable – God/Jesus found us and bought us back by laying down His life.**
2. **Secondary meaning of the parable – We found God/Jesus and decided to believe/accept Him as our Lord/savior and follow Him.**

This secondary explanation is about us finding Jesus and following Him. Point us back to the primary explanation of the parable. That is, Jesus found us and bought us back. This is because Scripture says we can't find Jesus unless God draws us. (John 15:4-5, John 6:44,65)

Since that's the reality, once God finds us and draws us to Jesus, He can help us follow Jesus in our daily walk. God then helps us bear fruit and follow Jesus in all our ways. The secondary reason is considered secondary because it's impossible to understand it without the primary meaning. (I know lol it's a tongue twister)

We must remember we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus. Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith. Scripture says it's the goodness of God that leads people to repentance.

- **Ephesians 2:8-10 (NKJV) For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**
- **Romans 2:4 (NKJV) Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?**
- **Hebrews 12:2 (NKJV) Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.**
- Romans 12:3 (NKJV) For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

So, God is there from the very first moment we believe. He helped write that faith upon our hearts! You couldn't master that faith on your own, and neither could I. It came because God drew us to Him and gave us His Word (Jesus). This all points back to why the first meaning of this parable is the primary meaning. Without it, the secondary meaning wouldn't even be possible.

Once we realize how much God loves us and cares for us, then we can follow Him with His guidance and help. That's why I believe the primary explanation of these two parables holds more weight. The first explanation shows God's goodness and mercy towards us while revealing our true value in His eyes.

Because of God's goodness and grace, Jesus sold all He had to buy us back by dying and rising from the grave. He became poor so we can become rich through Him. Therefore, God now draws us to Jesus through this goodness.

- 2nd Corinthians 8:9 (NKJV) 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.
- Romans 2:4 (KJV) Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

Now we can see how much He paid for us. Now we can see the author and finisher of our faith: Jesus, our example in life. It's His very goodness that leads us to repentance. This is why we can come to Him and follow Him. So the primary meaning is the cause of the parable's secondary meaning.

Both explanations I mentioned are valid. We are God's/Jesus's treasure, and God/Jesus is our treasure as well. However, regarding selling all we have, we must follow Jesus. We must remember we are saved by grace through faith, not by our work.