

Entering the Kingdom

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Matthew 13:44-46.

B. These parables are summarized in the incomparable value of the kingdom. There is nothing to match the value of the kingdom.

II. The man with the buried treasure.

A. He found a treasure, which was common during this time.

B. It belonged to him by Jewish law when he purchased it.

C. The point of the parable is that the man sold everything he had to get the kingdom.

III. The man and the pearl. Pearls were very valuable. (Matthew 7:6)

IV. Principles.

A. The kingdom is priceless in value.

B. The kingdom is not superficially manifest. (2 Corinthians 4)

1. It must be pursued.

2. Many will not receive it. (Luke 13:24)

3. The world does not see it.

C. The kingdom is personally appropriated. (Romans 2; 9:6)

D. The kingdom is a source of joy. (1 John 1; John 15:11; 16:24; Romans 14; 15)

E. The kingdom may be entered from different circumstances.

F. The kingdom is made personal by a transaction. The transaction is that we give up all we have and God gives us all he has. (Luke 9:57; Matthew 10:37; 16:24; Philippians 3)

G. There is cost to the kingdom, but it is worth any cost. (Luke 14)

Application Questions:

1. What is Jesus referring to when he talks about "the kingdom?"

2. How do churches today often reflect the idea that the kingdom does not need to be personally appropriated? Explain.

3. What is your response toward the kingdom? Does it match the response of the men in the parables? What can you do to foster joy for the kingdom in your life? Explain.
