

The Costly Kingdom

Matthew 13:44-46 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. (45) "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.

In these two parables, we meet a man and a merchant. Both had found something of immense worth – one, a field with treasure; the other, a very costly pearl.

After finding the field with a treasure in it, the man sold all that he had to buy that field.

After finding the “pearl of great price”, the merchant sold all that he had to buy that pearl.

We don't know if the man was looking for treasure in a field, but he found it.

The merchant was seeking pearls and found one of such incredible value, he sold everything else he had acquired to buy it.

Likewise, some of us happen by the blessings of God's kingdom, by chance – maybe seeing them manifested in someone else's life, or perhaps reading in a book about those who have experienced kingdom blessings. Others of us may have been actively seeking for kingdom evidence and were astounded when we saw the kingdom of God in action or demonstration; it was then that we knew that we had to have it.

Whatever the case, I believe God is asking me (and maybe you) two things:

- (1) **“Why have you given up looking?”** – no matter how long it takes, no matter how many holes I have to dig, no matter how many oysters I have to open up - I can never, ever, ever give up looking for God's kingdom to come in my life and the lives of others.
- (2) **“What price are you willing to pay?”** – to find the kingdom by digging holes or looking in mollusks, I have to be willing to not just spend my time in the search; I have to be willing to give all I have and all I am to see the kingdom come, in my life and the lives of others.

The Kingdom of God will cost me something. But it is far beyond worth it.