

The Parable of the Hidden Treasure

Matthew 13:44 (New American Standard Bible, my emphasis in bold)

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like a **treasure hidden** in the field, which a man **found and hid again**; and from **joy over it** he goes and **sells everything** that he has, **and buys that field**.

Introduction

Synopsis: a man goes out and finds a treasure that he cannot lose. He sells everything he owns to buy the treasure. That’s what the Kingdom of God is like.

In the parable, the man is us. The treasure is the Kingdom of God. When we realize the true worth of God’s Kingdom, it will bring us joy. In turn, it will create in us the desire to own it. The joy and desire to have God’s Kingdom demand our action to get it at all costs! Go All-in!

Let’s dig in a little bit deeper.

Content

The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden:

Finding

At some point of our lives, we all hear about the Gospel. Either you started going to church in your mother’s womb, or you first time hear the Gospel message at your death bed. Somewhere in between, we all hear at least once about Jesus and what He has done for us. He died on our behalf to redeem us from the power of sin and death.

Recognizing

When you first hear about the Gospel message, either you recognize its worth or not. Either you accept it or reject it. Or simply ignore it. The man in the story recognizes the value of the treasure right away. Do you recognize how valuable God’s Kingdom is?

The treasure’s worth brings joy and creates desire in us to own it.

In the story, the treasure brings such a great joy to the man. Likewise, does the Kingdom of God bring you joy? Remember the Christmas story? The angel appeared to the shepherds and declared, ¹⁰... “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of **great joy** which will be for all the people; ¹¹for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11, my emphasis in bold).

Joy:

As the treasure brings the man a great joy, so does the Kingdom of God brings us joy. Joy is there. It should be there in the lives of those who have accepted the Kingdom of God. Do you have joy in your life? Some people have happiness when everything goes well in their lives. Prosperity and health surely bring us happiness. However, Christian joy is different from such happiness. It transcends earthly and temporal happiness. Do you have joy that lasts despite adversity? Joy that transcends circumstances? Joy that is the fruit of the Holy Spirit?

The desire to own the treasure demands action to get it.

In the story the man sells everything he owns and buys the field where the treasure is. He didn't hesitate to get it. He didn't wait, either. He went all-in because of the treasure's worth and because he wanted to own it, right? In the same way, do you want the Kingdom of God so badly that you want to take an action?

The advantage of gaining God's Kingdom

Let's check out the advantage of gaining God's Kingdom. First, God's provision, protection, and presence are guaranteed. Next, it gives us forgiveness and freedom from the bondage of sin and death. Freedom from fear and anxiety is extra. What about the fruit of the Holy Spirit? *"But the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,** ²³ **gentleness, self-control;** against such things there is no law"* (Galatians 5:22-23, my emphasis in bold).

How about *peace, rest, and security* in the presence of God forever? Here's more. Wisdom from above, guidance, godliness, courage, contentment, the list goes on. All of them are packed in the treasure of God's Kingdom! All these gifts of God are secure. *Nothing or nobody will take such blessings from us.* Paul wrote in Romans 8:38-39. *"For I am convinced that **neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,** ³⁹ **nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord"*** (my emphasis in bold).

Jesus also talks about the security of heavenly treasures in Matthew 6:19-21.

¹⁹ *"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But **store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;** ²¹ for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"* (my emphasis in bold).

The disadvantage of not gaining the Kingdom of God

While the benefits of God's Kingdom are available to those who gain it, there sure is a disadvantage of forfeiting God's Kingdom. Jesus said in Matthew 16:26, "For what good will it do a person if **he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul? Or what will a person give in exchange for his soul?**" (my emphasis in bold). Indeed, those who fail to recognize the Kingdom value will end up forfeiting their souls.

By the way, do you have the eyes to recognize the Kingdom of God? The man in the story clearly had the eyes to recognize the worth of the treasure. Those who don't have eyes to recognize God's Kingdom will miss out God's Kingdom and its benefits.

In order to gain and inherit God's Kingdom, Christ urges us to put in all our possessions on earth. We will gain everything and lose nothing. The man in the story sells everything he owns to buy that treasure. What do you do with God's Kingdom is totally up to you.

Action Required

We see the man in the story have two options. Either to buy the treasure or to let someone else take it. He sold everything he owned and bought that treasure. The Lord Jesus makes the same call. *The Kingdom of God is worth all you have, even your own life*, Christ says. *Get it in exchange of everything you have. Don't stay attached to what you hold onto now but cannot after you die. Drop them all and follow Me. Deny yourself. Carry the cross. Follow Me*, Christ commands in Luke 9:23. "²³ And He was saying to them all, **"If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me.**" ²⁴ **For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, this is the one who will save it"** (my emphasis in bold).

Once again, you have two choices: either take the Kingdom of God or leave it. By the way, there are two types of people: those who don't take God's Kingdom and those who do and follow Jesus all the way.

People who don't take God's Kingdom.

One example was the rich young ruler (Mark 10:17-31).

¹⁷ As He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do so that I may inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸ But Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not give false testimony, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'" ²⁰ And he said to Him, "Teacher, I have kept all these things from my youth." ²¹ Looking at him, Jesus showed love to him and said to him, "One thing you lack: **go and sell all you possess and give to**

the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”²² But he was deeply dismayed by these words, and he went away grieving; for he was one who owned much property (my emphasis in bold). Jesus offers the treasure in heaven, but the young man went away not taking it, because he loved his material possessions more than the Kingdom of God.

People who do it.

Peter the Apostle (Mark 10:28-31).

²⁸ Peter began to say to Him, “**Behold, we have left everything and have followed You.**”²⁹ Jesus said, “Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel’s sake,³⁰ but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last, first.”

So did Paul. He suffered the loss of all things to gain Christ. He counted all his earthly possessions mere rubbish compared to the Kingdom of God. All for Christ.

Philippians 3:7-8

“⁷ But whatever things were gain to me, these things **I have counted as loss** because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, **I count all things to be loss** in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom **I have suffered the loss of all things**, and count them mere rubbish, so that I may gain Christ,”

Let me tell you. Paul was all-in. All for Christ. Listen again.

Philippians 3:13

“Brothers and sisters, I do not regard myself as having taken hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,”

Let’s Go All-in.

The term, “Go ‘All-in’” is used in Poker game. I checked out the reason for “All-in.”

Why would we want to go all-in in poker?

“Two main reasons. Either **we have the best hand** and want to increase the size of the pot, or we are running a big bluff and hope that our opponent folds.” <https://www.888poker.com/magazine/strategy/all-in-poker>

E.g., The Story of hedge fund manager in a movie called ‘Big Short,’ who believed that he had the best hand to win and went all-in.

“In 2005, eccentric hedge fund manager Michael Burry discovers that the United States housing market, based on high-risk subprime loans, is extremely unstable. Anticipating the market's collapse in the second quarter of 2007, as interest rates would rise from adjustable-rate mortgages, he proposes to create a credit default swap market, allowing him to bet against, or short, market-based mortgage-backed securities, for profit.

His long-term bet, exceeding \$1 billion, is accepted by major investment and commercial banks but requires paying substantial monthly premiums. This sparks his main client, Lawrence Fields, to accuse him of "wasting" capital while many clients demand that he reverse and sell, but Burry refuses. Under pressure, he eventually restricts withdrawals, angering investors, and Fields sues Burry. Eventually, the market collapses and his fund's value increases by 489% with an overall profit (even allowing for the massive premiums) of over \$2.69 billion, with Fields alone receiving \$489 million”
([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Big_Short_\(film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Big_Short_(film))).

Conclusion

A Christian missionary to Ecuador in the 1950s, Jim Elliott once said, *“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose”* (Journal excerpt from *Shadow of the Almighty* (1989) by Elisabeth Elliot, Jim Elliot, 1949). He went all-in for the Kingdom of God. He became a martyr.

Do you want to inherit God’s Kingdom? Christ says, Go all-in! It’s eternally worth it! Nothing to lose. All to gain. Don’t be half-hearted. Go all-in. Drop everything and follow Jesus. You will be smiling at the Heaven’s gate. Eternal joy awaits you.

Amen.