

Hidden Treasure

and the Pearl



Matthew 13:44

And Matthew 13:45-46

The Text Matthew 13:44

Ὁμοία ἐστὶν ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν
θησαυρῷ κεκρυμμένῳ ἐν τῷ ἀγρῷ, ὃν
εὐρών ἄνθρωπος ἐκρυψεν, καὶ ἀπὸ τῆς
χαρᾶς αὐτοῦ ὑπάγει καὶ πωλεῖ πάντα
ὅσα ἔχει καὶ ἀγοράζει τὸν ἀγρὸν
ἐκεῖνον.

The Kingdom of heaven is the same nature as
treasure box having been hidden in the field, a
person, after he had found it, hid it, and on
account of his joy he goes off and sells
everything he has and buys that field.

And the other text Matthew 13:45-46

Πάλιν ὁμοία ἐστὶν ἡ βασιλεία τῶν
οὐρανῶν ἀνθρώπῳ ἐμπόρῳ ζητοῦντι
καλοῦς μαργαρίτας· εὐρών δὲ ἓνα
πολύτιμον μαργαρίτην ἀπελθὼν
πέπρακεν πάντα ὅσα εἶχεν καὶ ἠγόρασεν
αὐτόν.

Again the kingdom of heaven is the same nature
as a person, a merchant, searching for beautiful
pearls. And after he had found one pearl of
great price, he had departed and has sold
everything he once had and bought it.

Text Critical

Πάλιν ὁμοία ἐστὶν ἡ βασιλεία τῶν
οὐρανῶν θησαυρῷ κεκρυμμένῳ ἐν
τῷ ἀγρῷ, ὃν εὐρών ἄνθρωπος
ἐκρυψεν, καὶ ἀπὸ τῆς χαρᾶς αὐτοῦ
ὑπάγει καὶ πωλεῖ πάντα ὅσα ἔχει
καὶ ἀγοράζει τὸν ἀγρὸν ἐκεῖνον.

Text Critical

13:44 "Again the kingdom of heaven is like treasure
hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in
his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that
field. 13:45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a
merchant in search of fine pearls; 13:46 on finding one
pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had
and bought it. 13:47 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is
like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish
of every kind; 13:48 when it was full, they drew it
ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but
threw out the bad.

Text Critical

13:44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in
a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he
goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. 13:45
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search of fine pearls; 13:46 on finding one pearl of
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net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of
every kind; 13:48 when it was full, they drew it ashore,
sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out
the bad.

- "Again" is not considered reliable

Are these twins?

- Both use
 - ὁμοία ἐστὶν ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν
 - The Kingdom of heaven is the same nature as
- Both have
 - A person who sells everything to gain something

Are these twins?

- They have different images
 - The Kingdom of Heaven is the same nature as treasure box
 - Again the Kingdom of Heaven is the same nature as a person, a merchant
- The Treasure is hidden and stumbled upon
- The Pearl is the object of a search

Are these twins?

- Finding the treasure the person hides it again
- Finding the pearl the person simply goes out sells their possessions

Are these twins?

- Why tell two things in a row that mean exactly the same thing?
 - The third in the series surely communicates something different
- Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; 13:48 when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad.

They are not twins

- Perhaps cousins
- Let's focus on the treasure

Context

- Matthew Chapter 13
 - 8 parables
 - Sower (with explanation)
 - Weeds in Wheat (with explanation)
 - Mustard Seed
 - Yeast
 - Treasure
 - Pearl
 - Net
 - Master's treasure

Parallels

- None in the synoptic Gospels
- Gospel of Thomas
 - 109. Jesus said, "The (Father's) kingdom is like a person who had a treasure hidden in his field but did not know it. And [when] he died he left it to his [son]. The son [did] not know about it either. He took over the field and sold it. The buyer went plowing, [discovered] the treasure, and began to lend money at interest to whomever he wished."
- Not particularly helpful

The Text Matthew 13:44

- κεκρυμμένῳ (Hidden)
 - Perfect Passive Participle
- So who hid it?
- Where else is this term used?
 - 13:34 Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing.
 - 13:35 This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: "I will open my mouth to speak in parables; I will proclaim what has been hidden from the foundation of the world."
 - Also a Perfect Passive Participle

The Text Matthew 13:44

- Jesus may be referring to Psalm 78:2-4
 - 78:2 I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, 78:3 things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us. 78:4 We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

The Text Matthew 13:44

- χαρᾶς (Joy)
- Where else?
 - 13:20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;
- Joy in receiving God's word

A Possibility

- God's word has been hidden from people and the kingdom is like finding God's hidden word. It is a call give up everything to have the treasure of God's word.

The Text Matthew 13:44

- ἐν τῷ ἀγρῷ, (in the field)
 - Why not a field?
- Where else is field used?
 - 13:24 He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;
 - 13:31 He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;
- Meaning?
 - 13:37 He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; 13:38 the field is the world,

A Possibility

- God's word has been hidden from people and the kingdom is like finding God's hidden word. It is a call give up everything to have the treasure of God's word. And God has hidden his treasure in the world.

Who is the Person?

- The disciples (including us)
 - Jesus is addressing the disciples
 - The disciples should value this treasure above all things
 - Jesus advice
 - 19:21 Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me."

A Possibility A Bargain at Any Price

- God's word has been hidden from people and the kingdom is like finding God's hidden word. It is a call for the disciples to give up everything to have the treasure of God's word, participation in the kingdom. And God has hidden his treasure in the world.
- This is the most popular possibility.

Who is the Person?

- Willing to give up everything
- Willing to buy a field with everything they have
- Willing to redeem the field for everything they have
- Willing to redeem the world with everything they have
- Willing to redeem the world with their very life
- Sounds like Jesus

A Possibility Revealed in Redemption

- God's word has been hidden and Jesus knows God's word. Jesus is the living word. Jesus hides God word again in parables. Jesus is the one willing to give up everything including his life to redeem the world and to reveal God's word.

Question

- Why doesn't Jesus know where God's word is hidden?
- Isn't Jesus the hidden word?

Treasure

- What is treasure for God?
- Exodus 19:5 Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, 19:6 but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation.
- Deuteronomy 7:6 For you are a people holy to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on earth to be his people, his treasured possession.
- Deuteronomy 26:18 Today the LORD has obtained your agreement: to be his treasured people, as he promised you, and to keep his commandments;

Hidden

- What could be hidden from God?
- Genesis 3:10 He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself."
- What then is the treasure for which Jesus is willing to redeem the world?
- Perhaps us

A Possibility Our redemption, priceless

- That the treasure that has been hidden is in fact ourselves. Hidden in the world buried in the darkness of our own sinfulness. Jesus is willing to give everything to redeem the world and all that is in it. This then is a parable of grace.

Lingering Question

- Is it legal not to tell the owner of the treasure in their field?

