

6.29.2025

Pastor Frank King – Refresh Church

Series: Jesus' Parables About the Kingdom, Part 3

Topic: **Kingdom over Culture: Is it Worth it?**

Text: Matthew 13:44-52 NIV

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The Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. ⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶ When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

The Parable of the Net

⁴⁷ "Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. ⁴⁸ When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. ⁴⁹ This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹ "Have you understood all these things?" Jesus asked. "Yes," they replied ⁵² He said to them, "Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old."

Definition: The kingdom of God (Heaven) is a spiritual rule over the hearts and lives of those who willingly submit to God's authority.

1. The Kingdom is a Hidden Treasure (Matthew 13:44)

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field."

Key Point #1: The Kingdom is worth everything.

- The man **joyfully** gives up all he has—**not out of obligation**, but because he recognizes the **surpassing value** of what he's found.

- In today's culture, people chase wealth, fame, and comfort. But the Kingdom offers **eternal joy, peace, and purpose**.
- **Philippians 3:7-8** – *"Whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ... I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ."*

Encouragement:

- **Don't be afraid to let go of lesser things to pursue the greater treasure of God's Kingdom.**

2. The Kingdom is a Pearl of Great Price (Matthew 13:45-46)

"...a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it."

Key Point 2: The Kingdom is not stumbled upon—it's sought after.

- The merchant is **actively searching**, and when he finds the pearl, he recognizes its **matchless worth**.
- This speaks to the **intentional pursuit** of God through prayer, Scripture, worship, and obedience.
- **Hebrews 11:6** – *"He rewards those who earnestly seek Him."*
- **Matthew 6:33** – *"Seek first the Kingdom of God"*

Encouragement:

- When we are seekers of his presence and power, we don't lose, we only gain.
- Be a **seeker** of the Kingdom. **Don't settle for surface-level faith.**
- Cultivate a heart that longs for God more than anything else.

3. The Kingdom Separates the True from the False (Matthew 13:47-50)

"The kingdom of heaven is like a net... it caught all kinds of fish... the angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous..."

Key Point #3: The Kingdom calls for a response.

- The parable reminds us that **judgment is real**, and the Kingdom is not just about discovery—it's about **transformation**.

- In a culture that blurs moral lines, the Kingdom calls us to **live set apart**.
- **2 Corinthians 5:17** – *“If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come...”*
- **Romans 12:2** – *“Do not conform to the pattern of this world...”*
(transformation, not participation)

Encouragement:

- Let the Kingdom shape your values, your choices, and your identity.
- Live with **eternity in mind**.

4. The Kingdom is for the Discerning Heart (Matthew 13:51–52)

“Every teacher... who has been instructed about the kingdom... is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.”

Key Point #4: The Kingdom brings wisdom and revelation.

- Jesus calls us to be **students of the Kingdom**, drawing from both the old (Scripture, tradition) and the new (Spirit-led insight).
- In a noisy world, we need the wisdom of God and revelation knowledge; the Kingdom gives us **clarity and truth**.
- **Proverbs 2:4–5** – *“If you look for it as for silver... then you will understand the fear of the Lord.”*

Encouragement:

- Stay rooted in the Word and open to the Spirit.
- Be a **Kingdom-minded teacher and disciple** in your world.