

Of Priceless Worth

Matthew 11:44-46

44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. 45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, 46 who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

A human body is primarily composed of six elements: oxygen, hydrogen, carbon, nitrogen, calcium, and phosphorus, which make up around 99% of the body mass; with the remaining small percentage consisting of elements like sulfur, potassium, sodium, chlorine, and magnesium. By themselves, these elements are worth maybe \$20.00.

If one were to sell a number of body parts like the heart, lung and others you could come up with a sizable amount of money. Maybe even millions. However the price of a soul is priceless.

The meaning of the two parables in the above reading is the same. The man/merchant (Jesus) finds something extremely valuable to him (mankind) and gives everything to obtain it for his kingdom. The message and the impact of the Hidden Treasure and the Mustard Seed can be the same for the disciples of Jesus today. Those parables bring an image and a message of assurance and comfort. The man/merchant did whatever it took in order to possess what he valued so highly, even to the point of selling everything he had. So has Jesus done what needed to be done to possess His holy Christian church on earth today. Though we disciples may often feel buried under the challenges and dangers presented by our own sinful flesh, by the hostile world around us, and by the great enemy and father of lies, there need be no doubt that we belong to Jesus. WE have been acquired. Christ has purchased us at the price of everything that He had. In the breathtaking reckoning of grace, we are as a treasure to him. Secure in that confidence, we can continue to follow Him. (CC - Gibbs)

In the parables of both the hidden treasure and the precious pearl, Jesus reinforces this basic truth: earthly possessions cannot compare with the immense value and cost of God’s kingdom. We inherit the kingdom by grace through faith in Christ, who purchased and redeemed us with His precious blood.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, grant me Your kingdom and Your righteousness. Amen. (TLSB)