



NEW TESTAMENT • LESSON 19

THE HIDDEN TREASURE

Christ, our treasure, is worth everything we have.



MONDAY

THE STORY: MATTHEW 13:31-33

Jesus was teaching parable after parable. In the parable of the mustard seed and the yeast, we have stories of things that are very small that multiply and grow to make something much larger. The kingdom of God was introduced to men by Jesus. He called 12 disciples, who in turn spread the message of the kingdom across the land. Others like the apostle Paul were called to proclaim the gospel, and it spread mightily. Now we also are called to share the gospel to those who have not heard it. We are a part of that mustard tree growing to reach people from every tribe, language, and nation.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What is the kingdom of God? (The kingdom of God is His rule. Jesus is the king, and the message of the king is the gospel.)

How is the message of the kingdom spread? (The message of the kingdom of God is spread when we share the gospel. Those who hear the message believe and receive Jesus as their Savior, Lord, and King, becoming part of the kingdom of God. They in turn tell others, and the kingdom advances.)

PRAY:

Pray that God's kingdom would come to your whole home and be spread to others through your lives.



TUESDAY

THE STORY: MATTHEW 13:44

Imagine if you found treasure in a field. You couldn't take the treasure because it belonged to the owner of the field. Therefore you sell everything you have to buy the field so you can become the owner of the treasure. If you knew that the treasure was worth well more than you had, you would not mind exchanging everything you had to purchase it.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What is the treasure Jesus is referring to? (The kingdom of God is that treasure.)

Does that mean we can buy our way into God's kingdom? (No, we cannot purchase our way into the kingdom. Jesus alone purchased our way into the kingdom through His sacrifice on the cross.)

How do we get the treasure of the kingdom of God if we can't purchase it? (We receive the blessings of the kingdom of God at no cost when we place our trust in the gospel. Placing our trust in the gospel does cost us something in this sense: In order to truly receive Jesus as King, we must forsake any loyalty to sin and the idols of our hearts.)

PRAY:

Ask God to help you see the value of the kingdom of God so that you might desire it more than anything in this world.



WEDNESDAY
WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?

THE STORY: PSALM 78:1-4

Jesus quoted Psalm 78:2 in Matthew 13:35 to explain why He was speaking in parables. These parables reveal the secrets of the gospel that lay hidden since the creation of the world. The treasure in the field and the pearl of great price have great value because of the gospel. The gospel is an invaluable treasure because it makes a way for us to become children of God and enter His kingdom.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What was hidden since the creation of the world? (Jesus revealed many things that were hidden. The lambs of the Passover were really a foreshadowing of the coming of Jesus, the perfect lamb. It has now been revealed that Jesus died for the sins of God's people that we might be forgiven. God's kingdom would not be only national but would be much bigger. It has now been revealed that God's kingdom consists of all those who put their faith in Christ. All these things were revealed by Christ to his disciples and are now made plain for all who believe the Bible.)

What does the psalmist, Asaph, say we should do with all we know? (We need to continue to spread the good news, the deeds of the Lord, to the next generation. We need to tell our children what our Lord has done. Of course, the greatest of all God's work with man is His work of salvation.)

PRAY:

Thank Jesus for dying on the cross for our sin.



THURSDAY

THE STORY: MATTHEW 13:45,46

Directly following the parable of the hidden treasure is the parable of the pearl of great value. This time we see that the man in the parable was looking for valuable pearls. When he found this one pearl of great value, he was so caught up with that pearl that he sold everything he had so he could buy the pearl. Many people are searching for true happiness. It is only in laying hold of Jesus and the forgiveness of sins that we will ever know lasting, eternal joy. Receiving this gift of eternal joy is certainly worth forsaking all the temporary joys that sin uses to lure us into bondage and eternal doom.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What should we be willing to give up for Jesus? (Everything.)

Do we have to give up everything we own to follow Jesus? (No, but we need to love Jesus more than anything else and be willing to give it all up for him. When Jesus told the rich young ruler in Matthew 19:21 to sell all he had and give to the poor and then to follow Him, the young man went away sad. In the end he did not follow Jesus. He loved his possessions more than the Lord.)

PRAY:

Pray that God would so touch your heart with the gospel that you would be willing to give up everything you have in the world to follow Him.



FRIDAY
ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

THE STORY: AMOS 9:11-15

Through the prophet Amos, God declared that a day would come when he would repair David's fallen tent. This would be a unique restoration. All the nations will bear his name, and they will never be uprooted again. This restoration of Israel and the blessing of all nations is a prophetic vision of the salvation that comes to all nations through Jesus and His life, death, and resurrection. Jesus is a king in the line of David. Jesus restored David's throne forever. In Acts 15 the apostle James quoted this passage to explain why the Gentiles were receiving the gospel (see Acts 15:13-18).

TALK ABOUT IT:

How is Amos' prophecy like God's promise to Abraham? (God promised to bless all nations through Abraham. Through Amos, God repeats that all nations will bear His name. The theme of God blessing all nations is consistent throughout the whole Bible.)

Do we bear God's name? (One way we bear God's name is that we call ourselves Christians. More importantly, we are now children in God's family, and the name "Christian" properly describes our position as a part of God's heavenly family.)

PRAY:

Thank God for reaching out to all nations with the gospel.