

Pictures of the People of God

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Jan 16th

Revelation 3: 14-19 reminds us that God sees churches differently that they tend to see themselves. The Bible describes itself as a mirror that enables us to get an accurate picture of God, the World, and Ourselves. (See 2 Cor 3:18; James 1:22-25) By examining how God describes us, we can get a clearer picture or understanding of who/what we are! (or can be) (Ps. 35:9)

God uses different Parables & Pictures in order to help us better understand how he sees us.
In Mt 13 Jesus shares multiple parables to reveal important details about God's Kingdom and values.

- **Introduction into God's Kingdom:** Vs 1-23
Sower and the Seed reveals differing responses to God's word.
- **Opposition to God's Kingdom:** Vs 24-33
 - Wheat and tares:** *Infiltration of False believers. (also 37-43)*
 - Mustard Seed:** *Expansion due to false, external growth*
 - Leaven (vs 33)** *Contamination of False, internal Doctrine.*
- **Description of God's Kingdom:** Vs 44-46
 - Hidden Treasure:** *The Price for access to God's Kingdom*
 - The Pearl of Great Price:** *The Process for God's Kingdom*

In Matthew 13:44 God describes us as a Hidden Treasure in a field.

"The kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure (Thēsauros': valuable deposit) hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth (Agorazo: redeems) that field."

1. Explanation

A. The man in the story recognized more value (in the field) than the owner!
1) He realized there were things of great value buried in a field.

B. The field belonged to someone else!

1) The man who discovered the treasure couldn't legally claim it.

C. He sacrificed "all that he had" to purchase the entire field from the owner.

D. This purchase gave him legal rights to the treasure and the entire field!

2. Application

A. God finds (recognizes) treasure in us. Lk 19:10

- 1) He sees great value in us! (See Gen. 1:26; Heb. 2:5-7)
- 2) But it's buried in the soil of our sinful soul! Ro. 3:10-23; 2 Cor. 4:7

B. We don't naturally belong to God; but rather we're the children of Satan. Jn 8:44

"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. ...for he is a liar, and the father of it."

(See also 1 Cor 2:14; 2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:1-3; 1 Jn 5:19)

C. Since Satan "owned" us, God had to redeem us!

1) He bought the entire field (Life)! *The taint as well as the Treasure. (Ro. 7) . Vs 44 "goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field."* (Agoraz'ō: to redeem: gain or regain possession in exchange for payment!)

2) Notice the cost of our redemption! 1 Pt 1:18,19 *“ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious (timios: most precious / honorable) blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:”*

D. Since God redeemed us, then He “owns” us! (He Has legal, legitimate rights!)

Col. 1:12,13 *“Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who delivered us from the power of darkness, (Exousia: Authority; jurisdiction) and translated us into the Kingdom of his Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins!”*

1) Did God get a good deal when he “bought” us?

a) To have access to the treasure, He had to buy the whole field!

b) Did God get everything he paid for when he redeemed you? Ro. 12:1,2 *“Present your bodies a living sacrifice, wholly, acceptable unto God, Which is your reasonable (logikos: logical) service”*

Titus 2:14 *“Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, (Periou’sios: beyond special) zealous of good works.”* (See also Eph. 2:8-10)

2) He bought us on purpose and for His purposes. 1 Pt 2:9 *“ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; (peripoi’ēsis: purchased, precious, protected treasure!) that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness (skotos: shadow) into his marvelous light:”*

3) Someday we’ll all realize this! Rev. 4:11 *“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure (Thelema: purpose, pleasure) they are and were created.”*

See also Phil. 2:10,11; 2 Cor 5:10

Conclusion:

1) The Point: God Values (treasures) us!

2) The Problem: Satan owns us!

3) The Price (our sin demanded) Christ Died to redeem us! Jn 19:30 *“It is Finished!”*
Teleo: fulfilled, accomplished, the debt has been discharged!

4) The Purpose: Be reconciled. 2 Cor 5:19,20 *“God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ... we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God.” (katallasso: To change mutually)*

APPLICATION:

1) Have you accepted Jesus’ gift of Salvation (Redemption purchased by his blood!) Eph. 1:7

2) Have you given Him the gift of your Service? Notice how Jesus closes: Vs 51-52 *“Have ye understood all these things? They say unto him, Yea, Lord. Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, (Oikodespotēs: manager, steward) which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old.”*

What treasures are you bringing for Jesus? Mt. 25:21 *“Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.”*

“More precious than gold, Much better than silver. Is the price of a soul; God wants to deliver
There are people around you Crying out for a Savior,
And their lives are a treasure of worth beyond measure. More precious than gold!”
(Majesty Music)