

Loft Underground

Shades of Red - Week Two

The parables for this weekend are the parables of the treasure and pearl hidden in a field – Matthew 13:44-45. Underline phrases that most grab your attention.

“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. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.”

This parable is actually two – the field and the pearl. List the characteristics you see that both share.

The parables have in common ‘selling everything’ which appears elsewhere in the New Testament.

- What is the situation in Mark 10:21?
- Describe the scene in Acts 4:24.
- In what ways did Jesus give everything? (use Philippians 2: 5-11 for inspiration)

Giving everything to Jesus is difficult – it is easy to hold on. Describe a time in your life when you needed to give something away, but kept holding on.

- How did holding on make the situation worse?
- Read Mark 9:14-24 – a healing by Jesus. The last line is the father exclaiming, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!” Why do you think the father said this?

The parable of the field and pearl, are teachings about value. The parables are about making Jesus our exclusive priority. As Christians, our primary 'value' is our faith in Jesus and our work is to be for God's Kingdom. Below, write down some 'values' that you have put before God and beside the word describe why that has come first.

a)

b)

c)

Now cross out those competitors and pray for a few moments asking God to give you a victory over each one.

Giving everything to Jesus, making Him our exclusive priority, takes God's help, faith, and an effort on our part. Frequently at the loft, we will weave U2's 'With or Without You' into worship music, using the line 'and you give yourself away.'

- Buy the song, or pick a song you like and as you listen write down what it is to 'give yourself away'.
- Giving yourself away assures Jesus comes first. Read Mark 10:31. How are you giving yourself away?
- List the names of those you know in need and end by praying for them by name. See you at the loft!