

## Parable-----Value of the Kingdom

To underestimate the value of something is always a costly mistake. Value, on the other hand, is always appreciated by those who actually have paid the cost. Jesus tells two simple yet profound parables in Matthew 13 about the Pearl of Great Price and the Hidden Treasure. The kingdom of heaven, Jesus says, is like a treasure hidden in a field. The one who understands the value of the hidden treasure sells "all that he had" and buys that field so he can have the hidden treasure. The same thing happens when a merchant looking for fine pearls, finds the one of "great value". He, too, goes and sells all of his property and buys that one, valuable pearl.

What value do you suppose there is in a cure for pain? What value is there in a solution for crying and tears? What value is there in a remedy for mourning? Is there really a healing agent for our physical bodies that will forever prevent disease? Can we ever count on an antidote for death? If there was a panacea for any of these human failings, what would be the price and the value of such a treatment? What is the value of a life where men and women no longer need to work by the sweat of their brow, where provision for every need is supplied to the fullest extent, where food and shelter and clothing abound without worry from changing times and seasons. The value of all these things cannot be reached with dollars or gold or even the combined assets of the entire world.

The kingdom of heaven is the place where this valuable life can be enjoyed forever and it is coming soon! The value of living in this kingdom has been paid for over 2,000 years ago on a hill called Golgotha, on a wooden cross with three nails, by a man called Jesus. Three days after he was killed, he arose from the dead thru the power of God the Father's Holy Spirit. Jesus was not raised by the gods of this world but by the One, True, Living God. Jesus' blood paid the debt man could not pay, atoned for the sins man could not remove, restored the right and privilege of being called children of the living God! Now how valuable is that!

sj—1/15

