



THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD

CHRIST THE LORD PARISH

1 – 5 ADMIRALTY ROAD, LEKKI PHASE 1, LAGOS

DIGGING DEEP

THEME: THE PARABLES OF JESUS

TUESDAY, 21ST OCTOBER, 2025

TOPIC: THE PARABLES OF THE LEAVEN/YEAST, THE HIDDEN TREASURE AND THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

TEXT: MATTHEW 13:33; LUKE 13:20; MATTHEW 13:44 - 46

THE PARABLE OF THE LEAVEN/YEAST (MT. 13:33; LK. 13:20-21)

BACKGROUND

A. WHAT WAS “LEAVEN”?

1. A small portion of substance used to ferment dough during baking
2. If inserted into a batch, it continues its process of fermentation until the whole batch has risen
3. Today, we use the term “yeast” instead of “leaven”
4. The theme of this parable can be described as: Growth and Development of God’s kingdom

THE PARABLE EXPLAINED

A. THE KINGDOM’S GROWTH WILL BE PERVASIVE...

1. That is, having the quality and ability to permeate, to spread or flow throughout the world
2. The reign of heaven (God) will gradually make its influence felt in the world
3. And this “reign of heaven” could be manifested:
In the form of the gospel (the “word” of the kingdom, Mt 13:19)
In the form of the church, which spreads as people accept the gospel - Mk 16:15-16
In the influence of the Word and the Church, as their influence is felt in society
4. This parable also illustrates the “invisible” growth of the kingdom, spreading silently but powerfully
As leaven does it work with less noticeable effect
So the spreading influence of the kingdom is often unnoticeable, but real nonetheless!

B. THE KINGDOM’S INFLUENCE WILL BE COMPLETE...

1. Speaking of the loaf, Jesus said “*till it was all leavened*”
2. No part of the “loaf” (world) will be untouched by the influence of the kingdom (“yeast”)
3. The gospel did indeed spread in this way - Rom 10:17-18; 16:25-26; Col 1:6,23

APPLICATION OF THE PARABLE

A. DON’T LOSE HEART...

1. Don’t measure the growth or success of the kingdom solely by visible standards
2. The spread of the kingdom (the rule of God) is taking place wherever the “word of the kingdom” is being sown, and fruit will be borne as it falls on “good and noble hearts”
3. Remain confident: that what started in one portion of the “loaf” will spread through the whole “loaf”.

THE PARABLE OF THE HIDDEN TREASURE (MT 13:44)

BACKGROUND

- a. A couplet of parables are found in Mt 13:44-46
 - 1) “The Parable Of The Hidden Treasure”
 - 2) “The Parable Of The Pearl Of Great Price”
- b. The theme of this couplet is the Preciousness and Value of the kingdom; it is worth everything!

THE PARABLE EXPLAINED

A. THE DETAILS OF THE PARABLE...

1. A man finds a treasure hidden in a field
2. He first hides it, then proceeds to buy the field
3. Though he must sell everything he has in order to buy the field, he does so gladly in anticipation of the treasure that will then be rightfully his

B. THE MEANING OF THE PARABLE...

1. The kingdom of heaven, the glad recognition of God's rule over our lives, including salvation for the present and future eternal glory, the great privilege of being made a blessing to others to the glory of God, all this, is a treasure so inestimably precious that one who obtains it is willing to surrender all for it.
2. What distinguishes this parable from the one following is that it describes the value of the kingdom to one who accidentally finds it
 - a. Though not purposely looking for it, its value is immediately recognized
3. We should grasp its one important lesson: the incalculable preciousness of salvation for those who discover it and obtain possession of it without even looking for it!"
 - a. Paul's conversion is an example of how we can give up all to lay hold of the treasure" of the kingdom
 - b. That the value of the kingdom can be seen when we consider that it is:
 - 1) A refuge from the powers of darkness - Col 1:13
 - 2) A domain of righteousness, peace, and joy - Rom 14:17
 - 3) An unshakable kingdom - Heb 12:25-29
 - 4) One destined for eternal glory - Mt 13:41-43

THE PARABLE OF THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE (MT 13:45-46)

I. THE PARABLE EXPLAINED

A. THE DETAILS OF THE PARABLE...

1. A merchant is seeking beautiful pearls
2. He finds one pearl of great price
3. Undeterred by its price, he sells all that he has and buys it!

B. THE MEANING OF THE PARABLE...

1. In this parable, the person is on a mission to find that which is of great value
 - a. He believes there is something out there worth looking for, or he would not be seeking it
 - b. When he finds it, he immediately recognizes its value and is willing to sell all to obtain it
2. This parable describes how some people react to the kingdom of heaven, when they know there must be something out there worthy of great value and have been searching for it.

C. SOME BIBLICAL EXAMPLES.

1. The Ethiopian eunuch- Ac 8:26-38
 - a. His journey to Jerusalem to worship, his reading of Scripture while returning, indicates he was spiritually searching
 - b. His immediate desire to be baptized shows his estimation of the value of the salvation through Christ
2. Cornelius - Ac 10:1-8,30-33
 - a. His prayers and alms were indicative of his search for "righteousness"
 - b. As promised by Jesus (Mt 5:6), God took note of his spiritual hunger and thirst, and sent Peter to tell him the gospel of Christ
3. Lydia - Ac 16:11-15
 - a. Her meeting with other women to pray illustrates her spiritual searching
 - b. Upon hearing the things spoken by Paul, she and her household were baptized

CONCLUSION

Once saved, we become agents through our little but highly impactful roles for the growth and development of God's kingdom! But we must do all that is necessary to sustain our salvation, being the hidden treasure and pearl of great price. Though salvation is absolutely free, there is a price to pay to keep it. We are called to offer our lives as a daily sacrifice (Rom 12:1), depart from iniquity (2Tim. 2:19) and work out our salvation with fear and trembling (Phi 2:12). We are further called to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Christ (Mt 16:24). And we are to do all these joyfully because we consider our salvation the most important gift we have found. May God's grace be multiplied in our lives. Thank you.