

Matthew 13:44-46. the Parables of the Hidden Treasure and of the Pearls.

by Favell Lee Mortimer

The sermon emphasizes the importance of securing eternal life now, and finding true joy and comfort in Christ, who is the pearl of great price.

Scripture: Matthew 13:44-45, John 8:36, Philippians 3:8, 1 Peter 2:7

Topics: "Eternal Life", "Salvation In Christ"

Description

Favell Lee Mortimer preaches about the priceless treasure of heavenly blessings that believers have found in Christ, contrasting the world's perception of religion as gloomy and restrictive with the believer's joy and fulfillment in Christ. The urgency to secure eternal life is emphasized, warning of the regret that will follow neglecting the opportunity. Through the example of Augustine's conversion, the sermon highlights the struggle to let go of sinful pleasures and the ultimate joy and freedom found in Christ, the Pearl of great price, who brings comfort and salvation in life and in death.

Transcript

We should be much astonished if a man were to show such eagerness to possess a common field, that he was willing to give any price for it. But if we afterwards found that he had discovered in it a mine of precious ore, we should not be surprised at his anxiety to obtain the field, even at a very high price.

Now it is in like manner that the world wonders at the eagerness of the believer to secure heavenly blessings. They see no such attraction in religion as to account for his earnestness, and they are ready to consider him a fool and a madman. But they have not discovered the treasure which he has discovered. Not that he hides it from them, (as the man in the parable did,) but he cannot persuade them to believe his testimony. In vain he assures them that true joy is to be found in Christ alone; they reply that religion is full of gloom and restraint, and that it is only fit for the sick, or the sorrowful. The believer knows well that the favor of God is of infinite value; he buys the field, he secures the treasure, and rejoices in his possession. Now is the time when the field may be bought. That time will soon be past. Dreadful and endless will be the regrets of those who neglected the opportunity of laying hold on eternal life.

In the next parable, a man is represented seeking goodly pearls. By nature we all seek for happiness; but we can never find it, except in the knowledge of Christ; nor can we find it there, unless we are willing to renounce all sinful pleasures for his sake. Augustine, the African bishop, (who lived four hundred years

after Christ,) endured many sharp struggles before he would consent to part with his sins. But at length the grace of God subdued his stubborn heart. He cast himself down before the Lord under a fig-tree, and prayed, saying, "How long, Lord, will you be angry? Forever? Remember not my old iniquities. How long shall I say--'To-morrow?' Why should not this hour put an end to my slavery?" God, by whose Spirit this prayer was suggested, answered it and revealed Christ to Augustine's soul. Then this man, once so miserable, could say, "How sweet was it in a moment to be free from those delightful vanities, to love which had been my dread--to part with which--was now my joy! You did cast them out, O my true and highest delight--and then, O sweeter than all pleasure, entered in their room. How was my mind set free from the gnawing cares of sinful passions, and I conversed intimately with You, my Light, my Riches, my Savior, and my God." Surely this penitent sinner had now found the Pearl of great price. Can we say that Jesus is precious to our hearts? Upon a dying bed we should feel that none but He could comfort or save us--what should we do, if we had not found him then?

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