

The Treasure Beyond Price

The Kingdom of God pt 6

The Kingdom of God is of infinite value, worth every sacrifice, and calls believers to live with Kingdom priorities above all else.

1) RECAP: Parts 1–5

a) Part 1 — The Reign of the King (The Meaning of the Kingdom)

i) Main Idea:

- (1) The Kingdom of God is God's sovereign rule over all creation, now revealed through Christ and His people. It is not merely future or political but the present, spiritual reign of God in the hearts of those who submit to His authority (Luke 17:20–21; Psalm 103:19).

b) Part 2 — The King's Gospel (The Message of the Kingdom)

i) Main Idea:

- (1) Jesus came proclaiming the good news that God's reign has broken into the world. The gospel of the Kingdom is the call to repentance, allegiance, and new birth under the authority of the King (Mark 1:14–15; John 3:3–5).

c) Part 3 — The Clash of Kingdoms (The Kingdom at War)

i) Main Idea:

- (1) The Kingdom of God advances in conflict with the kingdom of darkness. Through Christ's victory on the cross and the believer's spiritual warfare, Satan's dominion is being dismantled and the rule of God established (Colossians 1:13; Matthew 12:28).

d) Part 4 — The Growing Empire (The Progress and Triumph of the Kingdom)

i) Main Idea:

- (1) God's Kingdom expands like a growing seed, a spreading tree, and leaven permeating dough — gradually transforming the world through the gospel and the Church until every knee bows to Christ (Daniel 2:35; Matthew 13:31–33).

e) Part 5 — Priests of the King (A Kingdom of Priests)

i) Main Idea:

- (1) Believers are a royal priesthood — mediators of God's reign — who represent His presence, declare His truth, intercede for the world, and live out His righteousness,

extending His Kingdom through both word and deed (Exodus 19:6; 1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 5:10).

f) **Transition:**

- i) Now, having understood the King and His Kingdom, we confront the question: *What is the value of this Kingdom, and what must we sacrifice to possess it?*

g) **Part 6 — The Treasure Beyond Price (The Cost and Value of the Kingdom)**

i) Main Idea:

- (1) The Kingdom of God is of surpassing worth, demanding total surrender and devotion. Those who truly see its value joyfully forsake all else to gain the eternal treasure of God's rule and fellowship (Matthew 13:44–46; Philippians 3:7–8).

2) INTRODUCTION: The Treasure Beyond Price

Matthew 13:44–46 (ESV) ⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶ who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

- a) The Kingdom is often hidden in plain sight, like treasure in a field (Matthew 13:44).
- b) Jesus compares it to a pearl of great value — worth selling all else to obtain (Matthew 13:45–46).
- i) True discipleship involves **seeing the incomparable value of the Kingdom** and living accordingly.

c) Clarifying a Common Misinterpretation

- i) Some have been taught that in these parables:

- (1) **We** are the treasure or the pearl.
- (2) **Christ** is the man who sells all to purchase us.
- (3) This interpretation sounds beautiful, but it **does not match the context**.

ii) The Subject of the Parables

- (1) Throughout Matthew 13, Jesus introduces each parable with the phrase:

(a) **“The kingdom of heaven is like...”**

- (2) The topic is **the Kingdom**, not the sinner.

(3) Jesus is teaching **the value of the Kingdom**, not the value of the lost.

iii) The One Who Finds the Treasure

(1) In both parables:

(a) Someone **discovers** something they did not have before.

(b) They then **choose** to give up everything to obtain it.

(c) But Jesus **did not discover the Kingdom** — He **is the King** and the Kingdom **belongs to Him** already.

(i) **Matthew 12:28 (ESV)** ²⁸ But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

(ii) **Luke 11:20 (ESV)** ²⁰ But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

(2) Therefore, the man in the parable **cannot be Christ** — it must be **the disciple**.

iv) The Message is About Discipleship

(1) In both parables:

(2) The person **joyfully gives up everything** to gain the treasure.

(3) This echoes Jesus' own teaching:

(a) *"Whoever does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple."* — **Luke 14:33**

(4) The parables teach:

(a) **The Kingdom is of such value that it is worth losing every other attachment to gain it.**

(b) To reinterpret this as Christ giving up everything **for us** turns a **discipleship call** into a **sentimental reassurance** — and **removes the actual point that Jesus is making.**

d) Summary

i) These parables are not about how precious we are to Christ, but how precious the Kingdom must become to us.

(1) Jesus is telling us that once a person sees the true worth of God's reign—His forgiveness, His purpose, His transforming presence—then no sacrifice is too great, no cost is too high, no surrender is too extreme.

- (2) The man sells all he has *with joy* because the treasure far outweighs the price. This is not about *earning* the Kingdom. It is about *valuing* the Kingdom. The Kingdom is so good that surrender becomes freedom and sacrifice becomes joy.

3) The Kingdom Is Incomparable

Matthew 13:44–46 (ESV) ⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶ who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

a) It's Worth Surpasses All Earthly Treasures

Matthew 13:44 (ESV) ⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

- i) Notice the sequence in the parable:

(1) **Discovery** — The man *finds* the treasure.

(2) **Awakening of Value** — He recognizes its worth.

(3) **Joyful Sacrifice** — He sells all to obtain it.

- ii) This matches Jesus' repeated call to discipleship:

(1) Matthew 16:24–25 (ESV) ²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

(2) Luke 14:33 (ESV) ³³ So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

- iii) This parable is not about what God does. It is about what **we do** when we see the Kingdom correctly.

(1) Jesus **did not discover or obtain the Kingdom**.

(2) He is the:

(a) **King** of the Kingdom,

(i) John 18:36 (ESV) ³⁶ Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.”

(b) **Owner** of the Kingdom (Matt. 28:18),

(i) **Matthew 28:18 (ESV)** ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

(c) **One in whom the Kingdom arrived.**

(i) **Matthew 12:28 (ESV)** ²⁸ But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

(3) It makes no sense to say the King had to “find” His own Kingdom.

iv) The Kingdom is:

(1) **Present**, but not always **obvious** (Luke 17:20–21).

(a) **Luke 17:20–21 (ESV)** ²⁰ Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, “The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, ²¹ nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There!’ for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.”

(2) **Revealed**, but not to all (Matt. 13:10–11).

(a) **Matthew 13:10–11 (ESV)** ¹⁰ Then the disciples came and said to him, “Why do you speak to them in parables?” ¹¹ And he answered them, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.

(3) **Recognized**, but only by those whose eyes God opens (Matt. 11:25–27).

(a) **Matthew 11:25–27 (ESV)** ²⁵ At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

v) The treasure is **hidden**:

(1) Not because God hides it *maliciously*,

(2) But because it's worth is **not visible to the natural eye**.

(3) The unbeliever sees:

(a) **Religion**

(b) **Rules**

(c) **Restraint**

(4) The believer suddenly sees:

- (a) **Glory**
- (b) **Purpose**
- (c) **Freedom**
- (d) **The reign of Christ** as the greatest good.

vi) **From our point of view:**

- (1) The Kingdom appears ordinary, even hidden.
- (2) But once seen for what it truly is, it becomes **the greatest treasure imaginable**.
- (3) And when you see it that way, **sacrifice becomes joy**.

b) The comparison and contrast of the treasure and the pearl.

i) Parable 1 — The Treasure in the Field (v. 44)

- (1) *The Kingdom is discovered unexpectedly.*
- (2) The man was not searching. He stumbled upon the treasure.
- (3) This represents:
 - (a) The person who was not intentionally seeking God,
 - (b) Yet the Kingdom breaks into their awareness,
 - (c) And when their eyes are opened, they recognize its worth.

(4) Think:

(a) The woman at the well (John 4)

(b) Matthew the tax collector (Matt. 9:9)

(i) Matthew 9:9 (ESV) ⁹ As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

(c) The thief on the cross (Luke 23:42)

(i) Luke 23:42 (ESV) ⁴² And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

(5) They weren't searching for the Kingdom — the Kingdom found them, and when it did, joyful surrender followed.

(6) The emphasis:

(a) Unexpected discovery & instant recognition of value.

ii) Parable 2 — The Pearl of Great Price (vv. 45–46)

(1) *The Kingdom is found by those who are searching.*

(a) This man is already seeking something valuable. He is a merchant, a professional evaluator of worth.

(b) This is the person who has been pursuing truth, meaning, righteousness:

(2) **Think:**

(a) **Andrew and John seeking the Messiah (John 1:35–39)**

(i) **John 1:35–39 (ESV)** ³⁵ The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” ³⁹ He said to them, “Come and you will see.” So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour.

(b) **The Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8)**

(c) **Cornelius the centurion (Acts 10)**

(3) They were searching — and when they found Christ, they abandoned all lesser treasures for Him.

(4) The emphasis:

(a) Diligent seeking & discerning the highest value among many contenders.

c) **Eternal Value Over Temporal Gain**

Philippians 3:7–8 (ESV) ⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss **because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.** For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

i) Philippians 3:7–8: Paul counts all earthly things as loss compared to the surpassing worth of knowing Christ.

(1) What the world treasures (wealth, status, comfort) pales in comparison.

d) True Wisdom Recognizes Its Value

Proverbs 3:13–15 (ESV) ¹³ Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, ¹⁴ for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold. ¹⁵ **She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her.**

- i) Proverbs 3:13–15: Wisdom and understanding are more precious than silver or gold.
- ii) The Kingdom calls us to discernment — recognizing the eternal over the temporary.

e) Summary:

- i) The Kingdom cannot be measured by worldly standards; its value is beyond price.

4) The Kingdom Requires Sacrifice

a) Discipleship Calls for Total Commitment

Mark 10:17–22 (ESV) ¹⁷ And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁸ And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.’ ” ²⁰ And he said to him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.” ²¹ And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” ²² Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

- i) The rich young ruler (Mark 10:17–22) illustrates the cost:

(1) following Christ may require surrender of possessions, pride, or personal ambition.

b) Sacrifice Is Not Loss but Investment

Luke 14:28–33 (ESV) ²⁸ For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

- i) Luke 14:28–33: Building the Kingdom requires counting the cost.

(1) surrender is an investment in eternal gain.

c) Rewards Exceed the Cost

Mark 10:29–30 (ESV) ²⁹ Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, ³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.

- i) Mark 10:29–30: Those who forsake for the Kingdom receive “a hundredfold now, and in the age to come, eternal life.”

(1) Kingdom treasure multiplies eternally, unlike earthly assets.

d) Summary:

- i) Possessing the Kingdom demands willing surrender, but the eternal reward far outweighs any earthly cost.

5) The Kingdom Transforms Priorities

a) Earthly Ambitions Must Be Reordered

Matthew 6:19–21 (ESV) ¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- i) Matthew 6:19–21: Lay up treasures in heaven, not on earth.

(1) Kingdom-mindedness shifts focus from self, comfort, and status to God’s purposes.

b) Life Is Reoriented Around the King

Colossians 3:1–2 (ESV) ¹ If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

- i) Colossians 3:1–2: Seek what is above; earthly attachments lose their grip.

(1) Daily decisions reflect Kingdom priorities: relationships, work, finances, time.

c) Transformation Is Evidence of Treasure

Romans 12:1–2 (ESV) ¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

- i) Romans 12:1–2: Sacrificing self-will demonstrates the Kingdom’s centrality in life.

(1) Obedience and holiness flow from recognition of the Kingdom's supreme value.

d) **Summary:**

- i) Recognizing the Kingdom as treasure changes how we live, invest, and relate to the world.

6) The Kingdom Is Accessible to All Who Value It

a) Invitation Is Universal

Revelation 22:17 (ESV) ¹⁷ The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

Isaiah 55:1–3 (ESV) ¹ "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³ Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

- i) The treasure is hidden, but those who seek will find it.
- ii) Christ opens the door; the Kingdom is accessible to all who respond in faith.

b) Faith and Obedience Open the Way

John 10:9 (ESV) ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

- i) John 10:9: Enter through the narrow gate — the cost is submission, trust, and allegiance.

c) Immediate Response Secures Eternal Gain

Matthew 13:44–46 (ESV) ⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶ who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

- i) Matthew 13:45–46: Immediate action — selling all — is necessary to obtain the Kingdom.

(1) Delayed commitment risks losing the opportunity to possess this treasure.

d) **Summary:**

- i) The Kingdom is priceless and universally offered, but only those who recognize its value and act in faith will possess it fully.

7) CONCLUSION — The Treasure Beyond Price

- a) God's Kingdom is **incomparable, requires sacrifice, transforms priorities, and is accessible to all who seek it.**
- b) True discipleship is measured by willingness to **forsake all else for the treasure of the King.**
- c) Everything else fades; the Kingdom endures forever.

d) **Exhortation:**

- i) Brothers and sisters, the message of Jesus in these parables is costly.
- ii) The Kingdom of God is not merely **an idea to agree with, or a doctrine to affirm, or a church to attend.**
- iii) The Kingdom is **a treasure** — *the* treasure — the one thing so valuable that when a person truly sees it, **everything else loses its grip.**
- iv) Some of us stumbled into it unexpectedly. Others searched for years. But no one enters the Kingdom without coming to that moment when the heart says:

(1) *"Whatever it takes, Lord — You are worth it."*

- v) And notice this: Jesus says the man sold all he had **in his joy**. This was not loss, but gain. It was not sacrifice, but liberation. He was not emptying himself — he was **trading lesser things for the greatest thing.**

(1) So today, the question is not:

(a) *Do you believe in God?*

(b) *Do you go to church?*

(c) *Do you consider yourself a Christian?*

(2) The question is this:

(a) **Have you seen the Kingdom as the treasure that eclipses all others?**

(i) Because when you truly see it...

- 1. you won't cling to your sin,
- 2. you won't cling to your pride,
- 3. you won't cling to your comfort,
- 4. you won't cling to your own way.

5. You will **let go** — joyfully —because **Christ is better**.

- a. Better than success.
- b. Better than approval.
- c. Better than ease.
- d. Better than anything this world offers and everything it can take away.

Philippians 3:7–12 (ESV) ⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.