

JULY 28, 2021
Wednesday of the 17th Week in OT
Matthew 13: 44-46

“CHRIST, THE GREATEST TREASURE”

A lot of people would like to have a lot of money or treasure to secure their lives. They always buy lotto or raffles aspiring to win and be joyful. If we have some treasure, how do we keep it or what is our plan for it?

The Gospel of Matthew has 9 Kingdom of Heaven parables and our gospel for today mentioned the first two parables: the Hidden Treasure (13:44) and the Pearl of Great Price (13:45-46). Both parables speak about the importance of that treasure and the person who will find it will exchange everything just to have it; he goes and sells all that he has and buy the field or the pearl.

“In the first parable, the man comes on the treasure purely by accident. He was not looking for anything like that. He just came across it while working in someone else’s field. That is the way that Christ can come into some people’s lives. They are living their lives with a greater or lesser degree of happiness and satisfaction and then, out of the blue, they are brought face to face with the Christian message. It can happen in so many ways and has been described in many accounts of conversion. The effect is to turn their whole life around. In the second case, the man is looking for something. He has a very definite goal in mind – the perfect pearl. Similarly, a person can be looking for real meaning in their life. They may have tried many things already with only partial satisfaction. Then they come across the Gospel of Jesus and they know that here is the answer they have been looking for. Everything else is abandoned as they focus entirely on following the Way of Jesus. They know that this is it.”¹ In finding the greatest treasure, Jesus Christ, we will really ‘abandon’ all for Him – family, friends, wealth, contentment,

¹ livingspace.sacredspace.ie

own happiness, possessions, job or style of life – because we know we found the greatest treasures of all, the ultimate happiness, the treasure worth possessing above everything, our perfect goal and destination. To acquire treasures or pearl of great value means to accept the will of God in our own lives and sacrificing everything for the sake of God's will and will lord over us. We need to live as God wants us to live and a willingness to obey God at any cost.

My sisters and brothers, God always offers the kingdom as unparalleled and unmatched treasure at a price we can afford. God knows that we can't pay the full price but when we voluntarily give and exchange our life for the life which He offers us, we will receive a treasure beyond measure and equal. My sisters and brothers, let us ask ourselves, is our Lord Jesus Christ our most essential treasure, joy and delight of our heart? If we want to inherit God's kingdom, just give all our lives to Jesus, our joy will be complete and eternal life will be our ultimate reward.