



*Living Walking Serving*

# FAITH AND GRACE CHURCH

**LEARNING FROM THE MASTER  
(JESUS CHRIST- OUR CHIEF CORNERSTONE)**

## **STUDY 21-42 – THE PARABLES OF JESUS - Parable No. 16&17-The parable of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl of Great Price**

**Text:** Matthew 13:33; Luke 13:20-21, 17:21, Revelation 11:15, Psalm 72:19; Daniel 2:35, Habakkuk 2:14, 2 Corinthians 3:18)

### **LAST WEEK: Parable No. 15 – The Parable of the Leaven** (Matthew 13:33; Luke 13:20-21)

LESSONS:(1) The kingdom of God may have small beginnings, but it will increase.  
(2) The kingdom of God exerts its influence from within, not from without.  
(3) The effect of the kingdom of God will be comprehensive  
(4) Although the kingdom of God works invisibly, its effect is evident to all

### **Parable No. 16&17: The parable of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl of Great Price** (Matthew 13:44, 45-46)

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Jesus had just finished explaining to the disciples the meaning of the Parable of the Wheat and the Tares, and these two short parables are a continuance of His discussion of the "kingdom of heaven." He expressed truths about the kingdom in three pairs of parables in Matthew 13: the seed and the sower (vv. 3-23) and the weeds in the field (vv. 24-30); the mustard seed (vv. 31-32) and the leaven (v. 33); and the hidden treasure (v. 44) and the pearl of great price (vv. 45-46).

The similarities of these two short parables make it clear **they teach the same lesson—the kingdom of heaven is of inestimable value.** Both parables involve a man who sold all he had to possess the kingdom. The treasure and the pearl represent Jesus Christ and the salvation He offers. And while we cannot pay for salvation by selling all our worldly goods, once we have found the prize, we are willing to give up everything to possess it. But what is attained in exchange is so much more valuable that it is comparable to trading an ounce of trash for a ton of diamonds (Philippians 3:7-9).

In both parables, the treasures are hidden, indicating that spiritual truth is missed by many and cannot be found by intelligence or power or worldly wisdom. Matthew 13:11-17 and 1 Corinthians 2:7-8, 14 make it clear that the mysteries of the kingdom are hidden from some who are unable to hear, see, and comprehend these truths. The disobedient reap the natural consequences of their unbelief—spiritual blindness. Those whose eyes are opened by the Spirit do discern spiritual truth, and they, like the men in the parable, understand its great value.

Notice that the merchant stopped seeking pearls when he found the pearl of great price.

Eternal life, the incorruptible inheritance, and the love of God through Christ constitute the pearl which, once found, makes further searching unnecessary. Christ fulfills our greatest needs, satisfies our longings, makes us whole and clean before God, calms and quiets our hearts, and gives us hope for the future. The "great price," of course, is that which was paid by Christ for our redemption. He emptied Himself of His glory, came to earth in the form of a lowly man and shed His precious blood on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins.