



The Value of God's Kingdom

"... The Kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field..." (Matthew 13:44).

Bulletin VCMPJ13

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In our last study in Luke 14:15-24, we noticed that many missed the opportunity of a life-time with flimsy excuses because they did not recognise the value of the invitation. In Matthew 13:44, Jesus teaches that "...the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field". This reveals to us that:

- 1) The kingdom of God is of incredible value.
- 2) The value of the kingdom is not just laid out in the open, but hidden in a field (representing the world), just in the same way that valuable gold is in its natural form hidden in the earth to be discovered.
- 3) It takes the effort of a man or woman to find and recognise the treasure. (The untrained eye may not recognise gold that s/he finds in the earth).
- 4) The discovery of the kingdom brings joy because of its value.
- 5) The discoverer of the value of the kingdom sells all that he had to buy the field, so as to own all the treasure in it.
- 6) The original owner of the field did not recognise the treasure in his field - that is why he sold it. "I have written to him the great things of my law, but they were counted as a strange thing" (Hosea 8:12).

It takes wisdom from above to discover the value of the kingdom of God (I Corinthians 1:18-29). That is why Paul prayed earnestly for the Ephesian believers "... **17** That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: **18** The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, **19** And what is the exceeding greatness

"But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss... for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord..." (Philippians 3:7-8).

of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, **20** Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, **21** Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: **22** And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, **23** Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all" (Ephesians 1:15-23).

Examples abound in scriptures of those who discovered this treasure and sold all they had to buy the field, including Joseph, Daniel, Deborah, Esther, Mary, the disciples of Christ, etc. Philippians 3:4-14 gives a description of how Paul the Apostle responded to this revelation, which serves as an ample challenge to us living in the last days **"... But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 8** Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, **9** And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: **10** That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death...."

May God open our eyes to recognise and correctly value this heavenly treasure.