

## Taking Too Much From Parables

Matt. 13:44 says, *Again the kingdom of heaven is like unto a 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 is one of many of Jesus' parables that compare the church to something on earth. In this instance the kingdom of heaven (church) is like a treasure that is hidden in a field.

The point of the parable is that the church is valuable. If a man found a hidden treasure he would want it. He would take the necessary steps to obtain it. He would hide it, so no one else would discover it, and take it from him. He would joyfully sell all that he had, so he could gain the funds needed to buy the field. He would then buy the field and have possession of the treasure.

Many of the details in a parable do not apply. A central point is being taught (the value comparison). The details should not be examined in an effort to make everything in the physical story parallel the spiritual application. For instance, the church is not hidden to start with. When a person finds it he does not need to hide it from others in order to take possession of it for himself. Only one man could own the hidden treasure, but many people can obtain eternal life.

The kingdom of heaven can be discovered by seeking it (as in the pearl parable), or by stumbling across it (like the hidden treasure parable). It does not matter how you become aware of the kingdom, only that you recognize its value and obtain it.

*Ron Roberts*

## Mooreville church of Christ

720 N. Indianapolis Road

Mooreville, IN 46158

**March 19, 2017**

### Assemblies

#### **Sunday:**

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship

5:00 p.m. Worship

#### **Wednesday:**

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

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### Announcements

The men will meet for a business meeting this afternoon at 3:45. The ladies will have a Bible study at the same time. They will do lesson seven.

Our Gospel meeting is rapidly approaching (April 9-12).

At the time of this writing Mary Allen is still with us (3/13/11). Pray for her and the family as she approaches her last days among us.

How are you doing on your daily Bible reading. Schedules are in the back for New Testament or entire Bible readings in a year. Take one and get started today.

Alan Dickey, Bob Shouse, Dewey Davis, and Jill Fisher are all having physical health issues. Keep them in your prayers and visits. Also be mindful of our shut-ins and others who have other problems in life.

**Forgiveness  
does not come  
with probation**

# Turning the Conversation

*Ron Roberts*

Jesus would frequently **turn a conversation** around. When the woman at the well was concerned about physical water Jesus turned the conversation toward living water (Jn. 4:6-14). He was starting with the discussion they were having and leading her toward salvation. When the Apostles showed up with food Jesus said His food was to do the will of the Father (31-34). As the people of Samaria came out to Him He made the comparison of a harvest (of souls) coming (35).

He took people who were hoping for physical bread to a discussion of the bread of life, a phrase that referred to Himself (Jn. 6:26-35).

His parables were physical illustrations of things that could happen everyday. He made applications to reveal hidden spiritual truths. The sowing of seed illustrated the implanting of God's word in different types of hearts (Matt. 13:3-8, 19-23). The pearl of great price takes a physical treasure and leads us toward a spiritual one (Matt. 13:45-46). The lost sheep, coin, and prodigal son all refer to the repentance and restoration of lost souls (Lk. 15).

Some may think Jesus could teach these things because He was the Son of God who had miraculous powers. Although Jesus could read the hearts of men and therefore know which teaching to use, He did not have to use miracles to turn the conversations around to His spiritual lessons. I believe we could teach in a similar fashion if we made a few changes in our lives.

First off, we need to fill ourselves with the word of God. At times I feel intimidated as I look at the blank piece of paper or computer screen. I am supposed to write a sermon or bulletin, but my mind is as blank as the page before me. One preacher told me that you cannot draw water out of an empty well. If my mind is empty I need to start reading God's word to fill it up with truth.

Johnie Edwards had his preacher trainees do an exercise to get sermon ideas. He simply asked them to take a blank piece of paper and a pen and start reading the Gospel of Mark. Each time they came across a sermon idea they were to write it down. It works very easily. The word of God needs to fill our minds to the point it is overflowing. It needs to dwell within us to the degree that it naturally comes forth in our thoughts and conversations. No miracles necessary.

The second thing we need to do is to stop spending so much time on worldly subjects. We fill our discussions with scores, trivia, recipes, philosophy, psychology, politics, and so on. We can be prompted to talk about the weather at the drop of a hat. We can engage in a conversation about a movie, a song, or a ballgame with no problem. Why can't we turn these daily conversations into spiritual lessons? Because we are so involved in the physical events ourselves that we do not think about the spiritual truths that should be drawn out of them. We enjoy talking about the game, the lawn, or the car too much. We admire the hairdo, the new dress, and the jewelry so much that we do not think about the soul. We are so disturbed by the leaky faucet that we do not think about the time and opportunities that are draining away from our lives. Jesus saw past the mundane life to the goal of eternity. We also need to get our thinking out of the world and into heaven also.

Thirdly, we need to talk to people. We are becoming a reclusive society. We are too busy to have meaningful conversations. When we do converse face to face it is often interrupted by a cell phone. When I waited for my car's oil change recently I noticed that nine out of ten customers in the lounge were on electronic devices. The other one was asleep. Our discussions have become brief soundbites used only to get information. We get the facts, the details, the pleasantries, and then we move on to the next voice. Although our ability to communicate has increased we do not let any discussion develop into anything of spiritual consequence. We do not need miracles to teach the lost. We just need to make some simple changes in our priorities. The more spiritual we become the easier it will be to share Jesus with others.