



A just weight  
and balance

are the  
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- I want to tell you a true story.
  - In 1998, a man named James Hill found a small cave full of emeralds on his family's property in North Carolina.
- The total weight of the emeralds was about 3,300 carats.
  - (<https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1999-jan-24-me-1156-story.html>)

- **Just as a comparison,**  
the diamond on  
a woman's wedding ring  
may be about  
**one-quarter** or **one-half**  
of a carat.

(<https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1999-jan-24-me-1156-story.html>)

- The Parable of the Hidden Treasure  
**Matthew 13:44** (GNB)  
**"The Kingdom of heaven  
is like this.**
  - **A man happens to find a treasure hidden in a field.**
  - **He covers it up again, and is so happy that he goes and sells everything he has,**
    - **and then goes back and buys that field.**

- Matthew uses the phrase **“kingdom of heaven”**.

- While the other authors use

**“kingdom of God,”**

- But they are **one and the same.**

Although this parable sounds strange to us, it would sound perfectly natural to people in Palestine in the days of Jesus, and even to this day it paints a picture which people in the East would know well.

In the ancient world  
there were banks,  
but not banks such as  
ordinary people could use.

Ordinary people  
used the ground  
as the safest place  
to keep their most  
cherished belonging.

In the  
parable of the talents  
the worthless servant  
hid his talent  
in the ground,  
lest he should lose it  
(**Matthew 25:25**).



This was still more the case in a land where a man's garden might at any time **become a battlefield.**

**Palestine** was probably the most fought over country in the world;

**It was common practice**

to hide valuables in the ground, before they took to flight, in the hope that the day would come when they could return and regain them.

In *The Land and the Book*,  
which was first published  
in 1876,  
tells of a case in  
Sidon, Lebanon.

Certain workmen,  
digging in a garden  
uncovered  
several copper pots  
full of gold coins.

They had every intention  
of keeping the find  
to themselves  
and they were so  
wild with excitement,  
that their treasure trove  
was discovered  
and claimed by  
the local government.

It **appears** that in this parable Jesus glorifies a man who was **guilty of a deceptive practice** in that he hid the treasure, and then took steps to possess himself of it.

There are **two things** to be said about that.

**First**, in regard to

**hidden treasure**

Jewish Rabbinic law

was quite clear:

that a find of this sort

**belonged to the finder.**

**Second,**

In this parable

**the great point**

is the **joy** of the discovery

that made the man willing

to give up everything

to make the treasure his own.

**Nothing else in the parable**

**really matters.**

- Life in God's kingdom is much more than going to heaven when we die although that will be wonderful!

- Kingdom life is here and now.

- Jesus said,

I am come

that they might have life,  
and that they might have  
*it more* abundantly.

(**John 10:19**)



- **Life outside of the**  
kingdom of God  
is way less  
than God intended  
it to be.
- **It is not the abundant life**  
because it is life  
that is separate from God.

- **Isaiah 59:2**

***Your iniquities have separated  
between you and your God,***

- ***and your sins have  
hid his face from you,  
that he will not hear.***

- The chief aim of life,  
now, is to be  
**"rich towards God"**  
**(Luke 12:21)**
- The Romans had **a proverb**  
which said that **money**  
**was like sea-water;**
- The more a man drank  
**the thirstier he became .**

- We can never estimate spiritual blessings *above* their real value.
- We always underrate them, because we do not and cannot now see the full blessedness and glory which they contain.

So much of the Christian's  
happiness lies in the  
**eternal world,**

And so large a portion of it is  
**revealed under figures which**  
**the mind can scarcely**  
**comprehend that**  
we completely fail in estimating  
their worth.

It is a sad thing if it is  
**only on Sunday**  
that we feel close to God.

If so one needs to  
**dig deeper**  
**in the word of God**  
and you will be drawn  
closer to Him.

# James 4:8

Draw nigh to God, and  
he will draw nigh to you...

“Study”

(2 Tim 2:15)

Don't be guilty of

“having eyes seeing not”

(Matthew 13:13)

- If you could only have **one thing in life**, what would it be?
- Take an honest look **at your heart.**
- **What** do you love most?
- **What** would you give up everything else for?

- Would you believe that your heavenly Father's answer to that question is you?
- That the Creator of the universe loves you most?
- Would you believe he would give up everything to have relationship with you?
  - Philippians 2:6

**Who, being in the form of God,  
thought it not robbery  
to be equal with God:**



- We begin by looking in **Genesis 2**,
- God's **greatest desire** is a relationship with us.

- After God creates Adam in his own image,  
God says,
  - ***“It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him”***  
**(Genesis 2:18)**.
  - God brings every **created animal** before Adam to see if he deems any of them suitable as a helper.

- Genesis 2:20

*“But for Adam  
there was  
not found  
a helper  
fit for him.”*

- **Then without consulting Adam,**  
God puts him to sleep and forms a woman out of his rib.
- Seeing the woman upon waking,  
Adam says,  
***“This at last is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh; she shall be  
called Woman, because  
she was taken out of Man”***  
**(Genesis 2:23).**

- **How did God know**  
Adam would want  
a woman  
as his helper?
- **How did God know**  
she would be the  
desire of his heart?

- God knew Adam most longed for a bride because Adam was made in God's image.

- And God's greatest desire is for a relationship with us, whom the Bible calls his Bride.

- John 3:29  
**He that hath the bride is the bridegroom:**

- What is God's heart like?
- Out of everything that God has created he desires most a relationship with you.

- And to prove that Jesus **stepped down** from His heavenly throne to make that possible.
- **Philippians 2:6** (GSNT)  
**Though he possessed the nature of God, he did not grasp at equality with God, 2:7 but laid it aside to take on the nature of a slave and become like other men.**



- **He stands at the door**  
of our heart and knocks,  
beckoning us with  
his loving-kindness  
to simply come  
and know him.

- **Revelation 3:20**

**Behold, I stand at the door,  
and knock:**

- Once we truly grasp the depth of God's desire for us,
- The only true response is to give up everything for him.

- In Matthew 13:44-46, Jesus tells a parable explaining God's unending love.

## **The Parable of the Hidden Treasure**

**Mat 13:44** Again, 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.

## **The Parable of the Pearl of Great Value**

**Mat 13:45** Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly **pearls**:  
**3:46** Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

- The kingdom of God  
is the  
**greatest treasure.**



- The pearl of  
**greatest value.**

- Paul described his life's pursuit in Philippians 3:8

- Philippians 3:8

“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.”

- “**For whom I have suffered the loss of all things**”
- Paul’s evaluation was not **theoretical** or **academic**.
- In his conversion to Christ **he had to renounce** the things of his past that stood in the way,

- And in the process,  
**he lost everything.**
- It is one thing to say  
**I would give it up.**
  - But another to  
**actually experience**  
the loss  
**and not regret it.**



- **“Count them as rubbish,  
that I may gain Christ”**.
- One of the most striking elements of Paul’s words here is his use of the Greek word, **skubalon** (skoo’-bal-on).

- The word is used to describe what is thrown to the dogs.
  - The food left over after a feast.
    - It translated as:
      - Rubbish (NASB, NIV)
      - Garbage (NEB)
      - Dung (KJV).

- The picture here is not of an agonizing choice.
- His accolades and credentials are placed in the dumpster without regret.
- It is as one scrapes off a dinner plate.
  - He does not agonize to have it back.

- That is challenging from the cold damp floor **of a dungeon!**
- **Do you regret** what you had to give up to be a Christian?
- Were you called to **sacrifice too much?**
- If you suffered loss for your faith would you count it the loss as **skubalon?**  
(skoo'-bal-on).

- A few years back (**2015**)  
a decorated and celebrated  
fire chief  
for the city of Atlanta,  
**Kelvin Cochran**,  
was fired from his job for  
**writing a Bible workbook**  
about the family  
as God designed it.

- Wherein he spoke against homosexuality as well as other sexual sins such as sex before marriage.
  - He recently lost his appeal to get his job back.
- He had worked all his life to get where he was and served the city of Atlanta since 2008.

- He had a considerable resume.
  - But he lost it all because of His commitment to God's word.
  - If you suffered that loss would you count it as rubbish?
  - Turn and walk away without regrets?

- When Paul put his credentials and privileges **on the negative side** of the ledger,
- What did he put on **the positive side?**
  - **Only one thing:**  
***That I may gain Christ.***
  - **That is enough.**
- **Everything else is rubbish** when compared to Him.



- *“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls,*
- ***46** who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.*
  - Following Christ **demanding discernment and commitment.**

- Like a treasure or a costly pearl, following Christ has a cost.

- But when one finds Christ (that hidden treasure) and understands what he has found, he will give everything to obtain it.

- He will count everything else as garbage.

- As

- skubalon?

- (skoo'-bal-on).

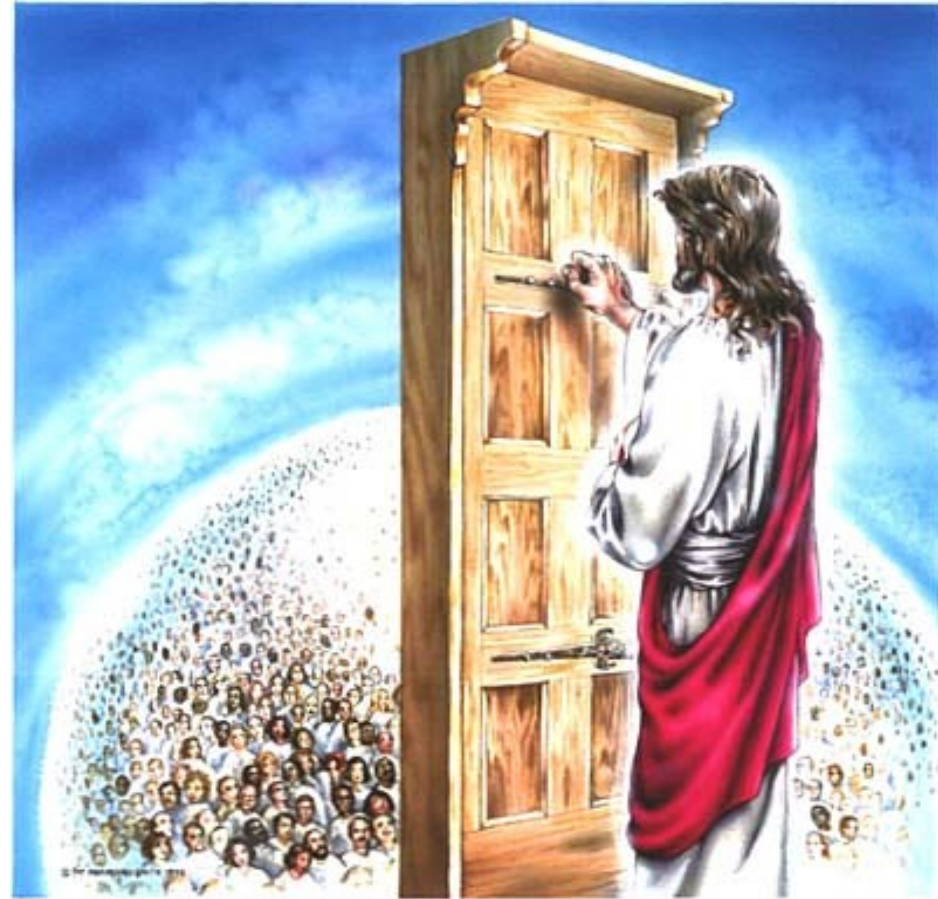
- Habakkuk 3:17

**Although the fig tree  
shall not blossom,**

- **neither shall fruit be in the vines;**
- **the labor of the olive shall fail,**
- **and the fields shall yield no meat;**
- **the flock shall be cut off from the  
fold,**
  - **and there shall be  
no herd in the stalls:**
- **3:18** **Yet I will rejoice in the LORD,**

**Doors of the  
church  
are open.**

**Spirit & Bride  
Say “Come”.**



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