

## Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map

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Matthew 13:44-52

July 29, 2018

### Under God's reign he rains down eternal treasures.

- How do you act when you come across a **great find**?
  - ♦ Oooo. Wow. I must have that.
  - ♦ Buy it. Study it. Play it. Watch it. Devoted. Priority.
  - ♦ Set aside time for it. Think about it. The urge to talk about it.
  - ♦ Natural responses to something **we treasure**
- Consider: the great find you have with Jesus.
  - ♦ Far more than your *Get out of hell free card!*
  - ♦ Everything that comes with being a reconciled child of God
    - hope of the New Heaven and Earth - eternally free from sin's curses
    - rich blessings that mitigate the impact of the curse now - life to the full

### Under God's reign he rains down eternal treasures.

#### ❖ Understand what's meant by the *kingdom of heaven*

- Parables teach: *the kingdom of heaven is like...*
- *kingdom of heaven* **not** equal to heaven - the place, our home with God
- *kingdom of heaven* = *kingdom of God*
- *kingdom of God* = God's reign, how things work under God's reign.
- God's kingdom: *of power, of grace, of glory* - address where he reigns
- The parables address **how things work under God's reign**

### Under God's reign he rains down eternal treasures.

#### ❖ Possess them.

- The *treasure in the field* and *pearl of great value* - each: What a find!
  - ♦ Don't just admire! Worth owning at all cost. **Possess it.** Claim it.
  - ♦ Sometimes stumble across - sometime found while searching
  - ♦ **Live looking:** *But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things (food/clothing/shelter) will be given to you as well.* Mt 6:33
  - ♦ Only a fool would pass up eternal treasures. These remain after death.
- *An expert in the law/word - trained as a disciple in the kingdom...:*
  - ♦ Results of training - time in the word: a whole house full of treasures!
  - ♦ The *treasure in the field* hints at this - a container of treasures
  - ♦ Treasures to be taken out, examined, admired, discovered, shared
  - ♦ Those who possess these treasures - God rains blessings through them

- Examine the treasures you possess through Jesus our Lord and Savior:
  - ♦ forgiven, new status as child/saint, new self: identity & way of thinking
  - ♦ new life - full of resurrection power - renews, restores, invigorates
  - ♦ mysteries revealed: knowing God - his character, heart/will, grace
  - ♦ truth/the word rescue from deceptions - of self and from others
    - *useful for teaching, rebuking, correction, training in righteousness* 2 Tim 3:16
  - ♦ humble wisdom (relying on God), hope, joy, peace: calm, rest, made whole
  - ♦ freedom from sin, the full armor of God Ephesians 6

#### ❖ Be possessed by them.

- There are 2 kinds of people:
  - ♦ Those who delight to live under God's reign (rule, protection, blessings)
  - ♦ Those who don't want to live under God's reign - rebel, reject
  - ♦ 1<sup>st</sup>: the righteous (status & God's work) - 2<sup>nd</sup>: wicked/fools
- The righteous: status through faith, also by faith seeking righteousness
  - ♦ Those who possess, lay claim to, own as priceless
  - ♦ God's treasures and kingdom possess us - reign over - own us
    - We want this. For we know what it's like when sin/wickedness reigns!
      - God's reign isn't withdraw from the world, just not of the world
      - Not a monastic life. Rather, living our callings serving God.
    - Eternal treasures rise to the front of our brains, our eyes, our hearts
    - These treasures are life - life to the full is found there in them

Now Jesus asks you, "*Did you understand all these things?*"

### Under God's reign he rains down eternal treasures.

That's what my life is all about.