

Lesson V.

THE WORTH OF THE KINGDOM

August 4, 1912

Matthew 13 : 44-53—Memory Verses, 45, 46.

Golden Text—Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness ; and all these things shall be added unto you.—Matthew 6 : 33.



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.

45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls :

46 Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

47 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind :

48 Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.

49 So shall it be at the end of the world : the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,

50 And shall cast them into the furnace of fire : there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

51 Je'sus saith unto them, Have ye understood all these things ? They say unto him, Yea, Lord.

52 Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe *which is* instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man *that is* an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure *things* new and old.

53 And it came to pass, that when Je'sus had finished these parables, he departed thence.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Another story which Jesus told His disciples at this time was about a man who found a treasure in another man's field. He was so anxious to get it for his own, that he went and sold all that he had so that he might buy the field in which it was buried.

Another parable like this one was about a merchant who was searching for beautiful pearls to buy, and at last he found one that was larger and more beautiful than any he had ever seen before. But its price was so great that he had not the money to buy it. Therefore he went away and sold everything he had so that he might buy that one precious pearl. And this is the way persons feel who want their sins forgiven. They cannot be happy till it is done, and they are willing to give up every sinful pleasure, and everything that offends God, so that they may come to Him and ask Him to forgive their sins for them.

Then Jesus spoke of the fishermen with their net. They cast it into the water from their

boat and afterwards drag it slowly to the shore. When they reach it and draw the net out of the water again, they find a great number of fish in it. But the fish are of many different kinds. Some are good ; these they gather into baskets to keep. And some are bad ; these they throw away.

So, Jesus said to His disciples, it would be at the end of the world. For He told them again, as He had told them before, that, at the last day, the angels would come forth and separate the righteous from the wicked and would cast the wicked into a furnace of fire where they would weep and cry out with pain.

Then Jesus turned to His disciples and said, "Have you understood the meaning of all these parables I have told you ?" And they answered, "Yes, Lord." "Then", said Jesus, "every scribe or teacher who is taught about the things of the kingdom of God, should, like a householder who owns beautiful treasures, bring them out, so that his family and his