

The Cost of the Kingdom

When we want something badly enough we are willing to give almost anything for that what we want. We make great sacrifices to get it. We set our minds on getting it. We have a deep determination to get it. Nothing stops us from getting it.

Do we want the kingdom of God and advancement in the Kingdom of God as much as that? Do we view the kingdom of God as more important than anything else that we would give anything to gain it?

Matthew 13: 44 – 46

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had, and bought that field.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.”

- 1) The Kingdom of God isn't obvious – it is hidden – we have to seek for it.
 - The Kingdom of God is not of this world – it is a spiritual Kingdom. (John 18: 36)
 - Seek first his Kingdom and his righteousness and all these things – all our needs – shall be given to you as well. Matthew 6: 33
 - Jesus said that the pagans run after the “things” of the earth. (Matthew 6: 32)
 - We can get so busy running after the things that would satisfy our comforts that we will end up losing everything that is really important in life.
 - Jesus said that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. (Matthew 19: 24)
 - There is nothing wrong with having wealth but the issue is not what we possess but what possesses us.
 - Where your treasure will be there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6: 21)
 - What we seek shows us where our heart lies.
 - Are we seeking the Kingdom of God above all else or are we seeking our own pleasures, comforts, wants, needs.

- 2) When we find the Kingdom of God we need to determine its value to us
 - We will find what we seek.
 - When we find – encounter, experience – the Kingdom of God what does that mean to us?
 - People experience the Kingdom of God in different ways – our relationship with Jesus, the King, is a personal one and we don't all experience him in the same way.
 - Our experience of him will be determined by various factors – our background, our society and culture, our family background, our life's experiences.
 - Often our sense of value is warped by our experiences. As Christians we need to bring our values into line with what God values.
 - Pearls are highly valued and divers often risk their lives to dive to get them.
 - What does God value i.e. kingdom values:
 - His glory and honour
 - People – individuals as well as groups – their salvation as well as maturity and overall well-being
 - His Church
 - Families
 - Righteousness – justice – and mercy

3) The Kingdom costs us all we have

- We can talk about what we value but our values are revealed in what we invest our time and money in.
- Have we had a glimpse of the Kingdom of God in the way the man saw the hidden treasure and the merchant saw the pearl of great value?
- When they saw them they were so full of joy and the desire to have them so overwhelmed them that they sold all they had to gain them. In other words they valued the treasure and the pearl above anything else they owned.
- In Matthew 19 Jesus wasn't setting the condition of giving up everything you owned as a condition for salvation. He was challenging the values of a rich man to see whether the man really wanted to just live his own life and scrape his way into heaven or whether he really valued the Kingdom of God. The outcome was that he valued his own wealth above the kingdom of God. He himself chose his possessions against the kingdom of God.
- Luke 14: 25 – 33 - The cost of following the King
 - Our families and friends
 - Our possessions
 - Our privacy
 - Our rights
 - Our reputation
 - Our culture
 - Our church
 - Our lives

IF WE TRULY WANT TO SEE THE KINGDOM OF GOD ADVANCING IN AND THROUGH OUR LIVES AND CHURCH THEN WE NEED TO VALUE IT MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE.