

Matthew 13:47-52
The Kingdom of Heaven
August 18, 2019 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Intro

The First Set of Twins: The Treasure and The Merchant

v.44 - The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells *all that he has* and buys that field.

Phil. 3:7-8 - I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless... Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

v.45 - **The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold *all that he had* and bought it.**

The Second Set of Twins: The Mustard Seed and The Leaven.

CEO of a company: *I was a foster child growing up. Many of my foster siblings haven't fared well, but I remember a turning point in my life. I was sent to see a*

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doctor as a young boy. In my presence the doctor said to the adult that was escorting me, "this is a smart and talented young man. He'll go far." That day my way of thinking about myself and life changed! God has provided me with the guidance and direction I need, but He also provided me that moment long ago. I'm sure that doctor had no idea what she did for me.

A careless word may kindle strife/ A cruel word may wreck a life/ A timely word may level stress/ A loving word may heal and bless.

The Third Set of Twins: The Wheat, The Tares and The Dragnet

v.27 - The servants of the owner said to him, "Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?" He said to them, "An enemy has done this." The servants said, "Do you want us to go and gather them up?" He said, "No...let both grow together until the harvest." "Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of the harvest I'll say to the reapers "Gather the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn."

2 Peter 3:9 - The Lord isn't slow to keep His promise... instead He's patient with you, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Read v.47

Back in Jesus' day there were three ways people fished:

- **Fishing pole and hook (Peter and tax money)**
- **Individual net**
- **Dragnet**

Read v.47-51

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v.49 - At the end of the age, the angels will separate the wicked from among the just and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Article this past week. **Hillsong Worship Leader Announces He's No Longer a Christian**. Popular worship songwriter Marty Sampson has renounced his faith. Sampson released the news in an Instagram post. The Sydney native has written and co-written songs for big Christian artists like Hillsong United, Hillsong Worship, Young & Free, and Delirious. Sampson first started leading worship with Hillsong in the late 1990s, though he hasn't penned songs for them in years.

The songwriter then went into what he called a “soapbox moment,” posing controversial questions regarding Christianity and the church that he feels nobody is addressing: *“How many preachers fall? Many. No one talks about it. How many miracles happen? Not many. No one talks about it. Why is the Bible full of contradictions? No one talks about it. How can God be love yet send four billion people to a place, all ‘coz they don’t believe? No one talks about it.”*

He says: *“How many preachers fall? Many.”*

- **David was called a man after God's own heart and he fell... (repented)**
- **Moses was God's chosen servant and he killed a man... (repented)**

He says: *“How many miracles still happen? Not many.”*

- Miracles in the OT weren't an everyday occurrence.
- Most of the miracles in the Bible happened when Jesus and His apostles were on earth. They happened to verify what Jesus said about Himself and what the apostles wrote.
- Also, there are probably more miracles happening today than we realize. If we could collect all the authentic stories from all over the world — from all the missionaries and all the saints in the all the countries of the world... we'd be stunned. We'd think we're living in a world of miracles, which we are.

He asks: *“Why is the Bible so full of contradictions?”*

“What contradiction?” **Usually...**

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How can God be love yet send four billion people to a place, all ‘coz they don’t believe?

He seems to have a lopsided view of God.

He uses one word to describe God--love.

But not only is God loving--God is also holy and just.

He could've just as well asked: ***How can a holy and just God ignore sin?***

And the answer is: He can't!

On the one hand, God loves you and wants you to live with Him forever.

On the other hand, God is just and must punish sin.

So what did God do?

The Cross shows both the love of God and the justice of God...

1 Timothy 2:4 - God our Savior wants *everyone* to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth.

Mt. 23:37 - "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, how often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks, but *you weren't willing*."

C. S. Lewis, in his book, The Great Divorce, describes a busload of people from hell who came to the outskirts of heaven. There they're urged to leave behind the sins that have trapped them in hell, but they refuse. They choose their freedom (as they define it) and reject God's salvation.

Romans 5:8-9 - God demonstrates His love for us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be *saved from God's wrath through Him!*

How are we saved from God's wrath through Him?

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If you lessen God's punishment for sin; you lessen Christ's sacrifice--which was His demonstration of His love.

If God can dismiss sin with a casual wave of His hand--there's no sacrificial love on His part.

If there is no hell and no one goes there--*then why did Christ die on the Cross?*

Because hell is real--that's why Christ died on the Cross.
Because hell is real--we need to tell others about Christ.

The Fourth Set of Twins: The Sower, The Scribe and The Householder

v.52 - Then He said to them, "Therefore every *scribe* instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a *householder* (head of the house) who brings out of his treasure things new and old."

Nehemiah 8:8 - They read from the Book of the Law of God, explaining it and giving insight, so that the people could understand what was being read.

God wants you to read His Word and be able to explain it to others.

v.52 - like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old.

Hebrews 4:12 - God's Word is living and powerful.

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Hebrews 5:12-14 - Although by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to re-teach you the basic principles of God's word. You need milk, not solid food! Everyone who lives on milk is still an infant, unskilled in the message of righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil
