



Table Talk

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, A

July 26, 2020

Matthew 13:44-52

“Therefore, every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out his treasure what is new and what is old.” Vs.

52



Jesus lays a precious gem before us and we are so preoccupied with buying the field or pearl or casting the right net that we oftentimes miss it. This gem is the old and the new of scripture, otherwise known as law and gospel.

We aren't the only ones to miss the gem. Jesus' disciples missed it, too. After three years of discipleship training with the master... after three years of miracles, healings, the dead returned to life, and the resurrection itself... after three years of being taught the Word of God... wouldn't they have understood Scripture's witness to Jesus Christ and the dynamic character of Scripture as law and gospel—a killing and an enlivening word. Yet their failure to comprehend the treasure demonstrates they had not yet “been trained for the kingdom of heaven” (vs. 44). They were unable to bring out of the “treasure” of scripture “what is new (Jesus Christ and his gospel) and what is old (Moses and the law).” After

the resurrection, Jesus came to “open their minds to understand Scriptures” (Lk. 24:45); to overcome their “doubt” (Mt. 28:16); to rebuke them for their unbelief and hardness of heart (Mk. 16:14); to overcome their fear (Jn. 20:19); and to correct them regarding the restoration of the kingdom (Acts. 1:6).

Being grasped by the Scripture as law and gospel—a living, active, dynamic death-dealing, and life-giving word—is entirely different than you or the church asserting doctrines of scriptural inspiration or inerrancy and infallibility. This being grasped by the Scripture as a commanding and demanding word, while at the same time Scripture promises, restores, and delivers on its promises, is the first distinguishing of God's Word as law and gospel. Even before one distinguishes law from gospel, one must be trained for the kingdom by being held by a word that lives. Then scripture becomes a treasure, not of an old, dead letter that has no life in it, but a treasure, a precious gem, that lives and gives life... life out of death (cf. 2 Cor. 3:6).

Table Talk: How did you hear the law and gospel of Scripture as God's death-dealing, yet life-giving word?

Pray: Heavenly Father, place the “gem” of law and gospel in my ears. Amen

Written by Rev. Timothy J. Swenson

Dean of Chapel for the Institute of Lutheran Theology

www.ilt.edu • PO Box 833 • Brookings, SD • (605)692-9337



Table Talk

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, A

July 26, 2020

Matthew 13:44-52

“Therefore, every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out his treasure what is new and what is old.” Vs.

52



Jesus lays a precious gem before us and we are so preoccupied with buying the field or pearl or casting the right net that we oftentimes miss it. This gem is the old and the new of scripture, otherwise known as law and gospel.

We aren't the only ones to miss the gem. Jesus' disciples missed it, too. After three years of discipleship training with the master... after three years of miracles, healings, the dead returned to life, and the resurrection itself... after three years of being taught the Word of God... wouldn't they have understood Scripture's witness to Jesus Christ and the dynamic character of Scripture as law and gospel—a killing and an enlivening word. Yet their failure to comprehend the treasure demonstrates they had not yet “been trained for the kingdom of heaven” (vs. 44). They were unable to bring out of the “treasure” of scripture “what is new (Jesus Christ and his gospel) and what is old (Moses and the law).” After

the resurrection, Jesus came to “open their minds to understand Scriptures” (Lk. 24:45); to overcome their “doubt” (Mt. 28:16); to rebuke them for their unbelief and hardness of heart (Mk. 16:14); to overcome their fear (Jn. 20:19); and to correct them regarding the restoration of the kingdom (Acts. 1:6).

Being grasped by the Scripture as law and gospel—a living, active, dynamic death-dealing, and life-giving word—is entirely different than you or the church asserting doctrines of scriptural inspiration or inerrancy and infallibility. This being grasped by the Scripture as a commanding and demanding word, while at the same time Scripture promises, restores, and delivers on its promises, is the first distinguishing of God's Word as law and gospel. Even before one distinguishes law from gospel, one must be trained for the kingdom by being held by a word that lives. Then scripture becomes a treasure, not of an old, dead letter that has no life in it, but a treasure, a precious gem, that lives and gives life... life out of death (cf. 2 Cor. 3:6).

Table Talk: How did you hear the law and gospel of Scripture as God's death-dealing, yet life-giving word?

Pray: Heavenly Father, place the “gem” of law and gospel in my ears. Amen

Written by Rev. Timothy J. Swenson

Dean of Chapel for the Institute of Lutheran Theology

www.ilt.edu • PO Box 833 • Brookings, SD • (605)692-9337





Table Talk

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, A

July 26, 2020

Matthew 13:44-52 English Standard Version (ESV)

44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls,

46 who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

47 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind.

48 When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad.

49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous

50 and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

51 “Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.”

52 And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”



Table Talk

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, A

July 26, 2020

Matthew 13:44-52 English Standard Version (ESV)

44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls,

46 who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

47 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind.

48 When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad.

49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous

50 and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

51 “Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.”

52 And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

