The Infinite Value of Jesus Christ Matthew 13:44-46; Philippians 3:8

What is the "kingdom of heaven/God"?

This is an expression of God's rule and reign over all that He has created (Psalm 10:16; 145:13). He is the supreme King of His universe. God is always reigning (past, present, and future) but throughout time His kingdom is manifested in different ways. Jesus has been given all authority in heaven and on earth (Matthew 28:18-20), and during the church age He primarily rules in the hearts of men through the Holy Spirit regenerating and saving them from God's wrath by Christ's finished work on the cross.

"God as King and the kingdom of God should together be seriously considered as the grand, overarching theme of Scripture... God appears as the ultimate King. God is central to and the core of all things eternal and temporal... God's kingdom has been, is, and forevermore shall be."

- Biblical Doctrine (John MacArthur; Richard Mayhue)

The Kingdom of Heaven is invisible.

- "The kingdom of heaven is... hidden in a field... like a merchant in search of fine pearls..." -God is invisible (2 Timothy 6:16; John 1:18; Colossians 1:15), and during this time His reign is invisible to the naked eye. His reign and rule must be spiritually discerned or seen (1 Corinthians 2:14; Romans 8:7).
 - "Hidden in a field..." In first century Palestine this was a common practice due to war or lack of trustworthy banking. Many treasures were buried in fields.
 - "Search(ing) of fine pearls..." This was an extremely dangerous task due to the lack of modern technology for diving and recovering things deep in the water. You had to tie a millstone around yourself in order to get deep enough to find any pearls.

The Kingdom of Heaven is discovered in various ways.

- This is the only point in which the parables differ. One man stumbled upon the treasure, while another sought it out.
 - "Treasure... which a man found..." Some men come to faith in Christ right after first hearing the gospel message. Their salvation looks like a point in time (Acts 9:1-9, 17-22).
 - "In search of fine pearls..." Others come to faith in Christ after a long period of time. They have not yet received life from the word of Christ. Their salvation looks more like a process over time. The seed is planted, but it has to be watered and cultivated before life comes.

The Kingdom of Heaven is of infinite worth. (Philippians 3:8)

"Sells all that he had... sold all that he had..." - Jesus Christ is worth the surrender of all things. In fact, we must surrender all things to Him. We must submit our lives. By comparison the kingdom of God is worth anything that a man has acquired in life. This is not a matter of earning salvation, but an understanding that nothing we have can obtain it. We can't barter with God because nothing we have is worthy of Him.

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• The Kingdom of Heaven is personally acquired.

• "Buys that field… bought it…" - You must come to Christ yourself. We must believe and trust Jesus Christ ourselves if we are to be saved. Every man is responsible to repent of sin and believe in Christ. All will be held in account before God for what they themselves have done (Ecclesiastes 12:14; Romans 10:9-11; 2 Corinthians 5:10).

• The Kingdom of Heaven is received with joy.

• "In his joy..." - There is no greater joy than the joy that is found in Christ Jesus our Lord. God's ultimate purpose is for His glory to shine in all He has created, but He also allows and delights in His children being filled with joy (John 15:11; 16:24; 17:13).