

# ONE (No Consolation Prizes)

Sunday, August 4, 2024

10:30 AM

## Matthew 13:44-46

44 “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.

45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. 46 When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

I love these scriptures because they highlight the Importance and great value of our faith. There's nothing like it... Nothing that can compare with it... It is everything and it's worth everything!

But we live in a culture that teaches "Everyone is a winner" and "Everyone deserves a prize"... A culture that often slips into the teachings of the church and waters down our faith.

Let me set the backdrop by showing you a clip that illustrates this modern mentality

### BLUEY: Pass The Parcel

So what does this have to do with the Bible and our scriptures today? Jesus paints a picture of the Kingdom of God that is much different from the idea that everyone is a winner or that everyone gets a prize. What he describes seems to be desirable, rare, valuable, exclusive, worthy of sacrifice. That doesn't sound like a consolation prize.

And yet that is exactly what the world wants to do to the teachings of the bible... Make them easy, make them automatically apply to everyone. Everyone should be a winner and everyone gets a prize.

I'm not suggesting that the treasure of our faith is not AVAILABLE to everyone... It is... But that's just it... It is a Treasure of a prize, not just some worthless consolation prize and in order to get it we have to play by Jesus' Dads Rules...

So, let's take a look at some of those rules...

## One GOD

Isaiah 44:6

6 “This is what the Lord says—Israel’s King and Redeemer, the Lord Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God.

Isaiah 44:16-17

16 Half of the wood he burns in the fire; over it he prepares his meal, he roasts his meat and eats his fill. He also warms himself and says, “Ah! I am warm; I see the fire.” 17 From the rest he makes a god, his idol; he bows down to it and worships. He prays to it and says, “Save me! You are my god!”

*“Today’s false gods are more tempting than ever as they promise comfort, wealth, and happiness. --Mark Batterson, pastor, National Community Church*

## One of only two ETERNAL DESTINATIONS

Matthew 25:46

46 “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

*The Man From George Street*

*Carl’s Note: Many years ago the LORD called me to serve the believers of Australia, & as a result I have been invited there many times & personally walked & prayed along George Street near the Sydney Harbor. You will be inspired by the following true life story from Dr. Francis Dixon.*

*“I was a widely-traveled pastor in England (from Lansdowne Baptist Church). One night in church I asked a man named Peter to share his testimony.*

*Peter got up and said, “This is how I was saved. I was in the Royal Navy.*

*“I was walking down George Street in Sydney, Australia and out of nowhere stepped a little old gray-haired man and he said to me,*

*‘Excuse me, sir, but could I ask you a question? I hope that it won’t offend you, but if you were to die today, where would you spend eternity? The Bible says that it will either be in Heaven or it will be in Hell. Would you think about that, please? Thank you, God bless you, and Toodle-oo!’*

*“Then the man left. I had never been confronted with that question – I couldn’t get it out of my mind; I got back to London, I sought out a pastor, and I became a Christian.”*

*Several weeks later we had a revival in the church and Noel, one of the visiting revival team, shared his testimony,*

*“This is how I came to know Christ. I was in the Royal Navy and I was walking down George Street in Sydney, Australia and out of nowhere stepped a little old gray-haired man. He said to me,*

*‘Excuse me, sir, but could I ask you a question? If you were to die today, where would you spend eternity?’*

*What he said bothered me and later, I sought out a Christian, and I was converted to Christ.”*

*Several months after that I was in the city of Adelaide in eastern Australia and I thought that I would share the testimony of Peter and Noel.*

*A man in the congregation jumped up waving his hands and said, “Well, I’m another – the same thing happened to me. I couldn’t get what he said out of my mind and I became a follower of Jesus.”*

*I then went to western Australia for a revival meeting and shared this story and afterwards a deacon of the church came to me and said,*

*“Dr. Dixon, I’m another, I’d never been asked that question, and later I prayed to receive Christ.”*

*I went back to my home church in England and shared about Peter and Noel and the man in Adelaide and the deacon from the western part of Australia. When I finished, a young lady came up to me and said, “Pastor Dixon, I’m another, this man said the same thing to me and later I became a believer.”*

*Several weeks after that, I was attending a conference in northern England where I shared this growing story.*

*Afterwards, a man came up to me and said, “Dr. Dixon, well, I’m another. I was on a business trip to Sydney and this obnoxious, spiteful little man stepped out of a shop doorway, offered me a religious pamphlet, and accosted me with a question,*

*‘Excuse me sir, are you saved? If you die tonight, are you going to Heaven?’*

*"I tried to tell him I was a Baptist Elder. He wouldn't listen to me.*

*"I came home and told my pastor, thinking he would sympathize, but he agreed! He had been disturbed for years knowing that I didn't have a relationship with Jesus...and he was right. I made Jesus my Lord and Savior!"*

*A year later I went on a world speaking tour and one of the stops was India. I was at a missionary conference and spoke on the topic of personal evangelism.*

*I thought to myself, "What a perfect illustration!" I went through the story and afterwards a missionary came up to me and said, "Dr. Dixon, I'm another, it happened the same way for me and I trusted Christ soon after."*

*After India I went to Jamaica. I was at a meeting with a group of pastors. I shared this story with them. A pastor came up afterwards and said,*

*"Excuse me, Dr. Dixon, I'm another, the exact same thing happened to me and later, I was converted and went on to seminary."*

*Next I stopped in Atlanta, Georgia to speak at a Naval Chaplain convention. Here for 3 days I spoke to over 1,000 Naval Chaplains.*

*Afterwards the Chaplain General took me out for a meal and I asked the Chaplain how he became a Christian. He shared that he was a reprobate drunk in his days in the Service, and while doing exercises in the South Pacific, they stopped in Sydney Harbor.*

*"I got off a bus on George Street, blind drunk, and this ghost-of-a-man jumped out in front of me, pushed a pamphlet in my hand and said,*

*'Sailor, are you saved? If you die tonight are you going to Heaven?'*

*"The fear of God hit me immediately.*

*"I was shocked sober, ran back to the ship, and sought out the Chaplain. He led me to Christ. I soon began to prepare for the ministry under his guidance. I am now in charge of 1,000 chaplains who are bent on soul winning."*

*Well, do I need to tell you where I went next?*

*I went to Sydney, Australia.*

*I sought out a Christian friend of mine and told him the stories and asked if he knew a little gray-haired man on George Street?*

*“Oh, yes! Everybody knows him. That’s Mr. Frank Jenner. But he’s very old now and he’s in the hospital confined to his bed.”*

*I asked my friend to take me to Mr. Jenner. We went to the hospital and I introduced himself. As I was giving specifics of each story, Mr. Jenner began to weep.*



*Frank Jenner*

*And he wept and he wept.*

*I asked, “What’s wrong?”*

*And Mr. Jenner said,*

*“When I came to Christ, I promised Him that I would share Jesus as a simple witness to at least 10 people a day. In my retirement years, the best place to do this was George Street. I got lots of rejections, but a lot of people courteously took the tract.*

*“In over 40 years of doing this, Sir, I have never heard of one single person coming to Jesus...until today.”*

*—A true account, shared by Dr. Francis Dixon before his death, 1985.*

## One WAY to Heaven

John 14:6

6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

## One ROAD

Matthew 7:13-14

13 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

One Truth, One Man & One Woman

## One MASTER

Matthew 6:24

24 "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other...

*"The Lord God has often lost out when competing with the gods of entertainment for our time and attention."* — Kyle Idleman, [Gods at War: Defeating the Idols that Battle for Your Heart](#)

## One PRIORITY

Luke 10:38-42

38 As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. 39 She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. 40 But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

41 "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, 42 but (only one thing is needed). Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

## One COMMAND

Matthew 22:36-40

36 “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

37 Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’<sup>[b]</sup> 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

One Rule - The Golden Rule