

Goal: That the hearers live more joyfully as Christ's disciples. Margaritas in Heaven?

There's a polka that I learned in Saint Louis. It is called "*In Heaven There Is No Beer.*" The chorus goes like this:

In heaven there is no beer
that's why we drink it here;
and when we're gone from here
our friends will be drinking all the beer!

I'm not sure if there will be beer in heaven, but as a good gift of God and part of His creation I suspect there might be, but without the sinful aspects. After all, God saw everything He made and it was all very good and it was for man's benefit. As the psalmist tells us, "*(He) causes the grass to grow for the livestock and plants for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine and bread to strengthen man's heart.*" (Psalm 104: 14–15) Whether or not there'll be beer I can't say, but we can be certain that there will be wine. Jesus told us, "*This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.*" (Matthew 26: 28 – 29)

Now that I have your attention, I want to ask a more serious question, "*Will there be margaritas in heaven?*" Actually, Jesus answers that question in today's second parable. "*The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine margaritas, who, on finding one margarita of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.*" (Matthew 13: 45 – 46) You see margarita is the Greek word for pearl. And the margarita (or pearl) is commonly understood as Jesus and His means of grace—the Gospel of the forgiveness of sins. The merchant is the believer who is willing to give up all of their worldly possessions because of their desire for the perfect margarita, the pearl of Christ.

Jesus says, "*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.*" (Matthew 13: 44) Again, the common understanding of this parable is of a believer who, out of great joy, sells everything they have if only to be with Jesus and always have the hope the Gospel gives.

Which reminds me of the rich young man who came to Jesus having done

everything possible to inherit eternal life. Jesus tells him, ***“If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”*** ***When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.”*** (Matthew 19: 21 – 22) Each of us is like that young man when it comes to our stuff. As Luther observed, *“the last part of a man to be converted is his pocketbook.”*

We’ll pay \$8, \$10, even \$15 for the perfect margarita to go with our shrimp tacos or \$9 at the Hale Koa for *“Hawaii’s best Mai Tai”*. And we’ll pay whatever it takes to meet our needs and give us pleasure, but if that pearl of Jesus gets in the way of our enjoyment, like the rich young ruler, we’ll go back to the treasures we’ve worked so hard. Growing in God’s Word through Bible study, giving our finances, and serving with others here at church can wait.

But can it? None of us knows what the future holds, but we know who holds the future? But if we value our worldly treasures, like the wealthy young man did, more than the treasures of Christ then we will miss out on something. This is why Jesus explains of His disciples of obtaining the kingdom: ***“With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”*** (Matthew 19: 26)

“Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, ***“Yes.”*** 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.”*** (Matthew 13: 51 – 52) But there is a deeper, hidden, meaning to the parables that can only be seen through the lens of God’s new covenant in Jesus. ***“It is God who justifies...Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us...we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”*** (Romans 8: 33 – 37)

Now consider again these two parables, however look at them through the new light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. ***“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.”*** (Matthew 13: 44) The man who finds buys the treasure is Jesus. The hidden treasure is the church, the baptized people of God – namely each and every one of YOU! That’s what God’s Word tells us from old, ***“For you are a people holy to***

the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers.” (Deuteronomy 7: 6–8)

The field is the world in which His people remain hidden until we shine on the Last Day, as the third parable in our Lord's trilogy reveals: *“So it will be at the close of the age.*

The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous.” (Matthew 13: 53)

“The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine margaritas, who, on finding one margarita of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.”

(Matthew 13: 45 – 46) Again, the merchant who seeks and buys the precious margarita is Jesus. Again, the pearl is the believer, namely YOU, whom God loved so much He died for you. Jesus gave all for you! And even though He is God, He set aside all the power and glory that goes with being God and *“made Himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, and in the likeness of man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on the cross.” (Philippians 2: 6 – 8)*

That which impossible with man has not only been made possible but has already been done once for all, for YOU! So *“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6: 19 – 21)*

So will there be margaritas in heaven? Of course. Because Jesus died and rose again, He has bought you from sin, death, and the power of the Devil. And each and every one of us, margaritas, are so loved by God that nothing will ever separate us from Him. As we look forward to that the Last Day we can share the incomparable treasure of Christ with our neighbors and friends and family members so that they too can be made redeemed people of Christ, God's perfect margaritas. Who do you know that needs to hear this new found truth today? Amen.