



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

Truly Valuable Treasure October 8th, 2017

(Matthew 13:44-52)

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.

⁴⁷ “Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. ⁴⁸ When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. ⁴⁹ This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all these things?” Jesus asked.

“Yes,” they replied.

⁵² He said to them, “Therefore every teacher of the law who has been instructed about the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.”

1. Share a story of a time when you thought something wasn't worth much, and it turned out to be very valuable; or a time when you thought you had something very valuable that ended up not being worth much.

2. **Discuss:** In the first two parables Jesus tells, the man in the field stumbles upon the treasure unexpectedly. The pearl merchant finds the priceless pearl after a lifelong careful search. Compare that to how some people stumble upon the gospel unexpectedly, and how others come to know the gospel after a long search for truth. Does one appreciate the gospel more than the other? Does one feel more joy over having found the gospel than the other?
3. The point of Jesus' first two parables is that the Gospel is the all-important, truly valuable treasure. Does the fact that the two men have to “sell” their possessions mean we have to do enough good to “purchase” the gospel? If not, what does it mean?
4. **True or False:** “God is telling us in this parable that we should give up everything we have, like monks or hermits, and live a life of total deprivation.” Defend your answer.
5. We all know of people who have possessed great earthly wealth, and squandered their money through bad investments, a lack of financial planning, or laziness and contentment with their wealth. In what ways can the same things be said about our spiritual wealth? How can we prevent the same things from happening to our spiritual wealth?
6. In what way does the third parable about the Fishing Net highlight for us the importance of Jesus' message of the all-importance of the Gospel in the first two parables? How might you use that parable to help someone who is struggling spiritually in your family?
7. What do you think Jesus is saying with his final illustration about the owner of the house bringing out “treasures old and new?”