July 23, 2020

# **Matthew 13:44-52 New International Version (NIV)**

### The Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl

**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.

### The Parable of the Net

**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 blazing 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 become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.”

**OPEN:**

1. What needs sorting out in your garage or basement right now? Is there more trivia, trash or treasure to be found here?
2. If you have ever had a garage sale or a moving sale, what worthy item are you saving the proceeds for or what did you buy and still own?

**DIG:**

1. What do the parables in verses 44-46 teach about the value of the kingdom? With what emotion and energy should it be pursued?
2. What does the parable of the net teach about the kingdom of heaven?
3. How does it compare with the parable of the weeds?
4. Who are the teachers of the old law who have been instructed in the new gospel (v. 52)

**REFLECT:**

1. Compared to the man and the merchant, how valuable is the kingdom to you:
   1. It’s worth more than anything else?
   2. I think I’d miss too many of the other things?
   3. I’m not ready to carry all this so far?
   4. Why? What does it mean to “sell everything” for the kingdom?
   5. Of the parables in Chapter 13, which ones are still unclear? All too clear?