

Sermon Outline Notes

Treasures, Pearls and Nets

August 30, 2026
Matthew 13:44-52

Main Truth: God's Kingdom is worth any sacrifice

The next three parables of Jesus focus on revealing something that is hidden, a revelation of God's nature and the nature of His kingdom. Each one starts out with "the kingdom of heaven is like."

God's kingdom is eternally fruitful and his kingdom success does not look like earthy success.

The Parable of the Treasure

Matthew 13:44 After finding the treasure, the man sold all his assets and bought the entire field to acquire the treasure it contained. The treasure was worth it.

Matthew 25:18 Burying one's treasure was a common practice at that time. In this case the money is buried for safety and dug up later by its original steward.

Interpretations of the parable:

- Jesus is the man who gives up everything
- We are the man who gives up everything for what is truly valuable

God's kingdom is worth selling everything for because it carries eternal worth which is far more valuable than silver or gold.

Parable Truth: We must give up what is worth less for what is worth more.

The Parable of the Pearl

Matthew 13:45-46 The merchant is a pearl connoisseur, an expert in the beauty of the pearl as well as its worth. The merchant sold everything he had to purchase the valuable pearl.

Pearls and gold symbolize something very valuable, beautiful and precious. Both of these items of great value represent the value of our future eternal home in God's kingdom.

Revelation 21:21 "The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass." The gates of heaven are made of pearls and the streets are made of gold!

Matthew 19:21-22 Jesus responded to the rich young ruler "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

Parable Truth: Nothing in the world is worth more than God and His kingdom.

The Parable of the Net

Matthew 13:47-50 “The kingdom of God is like a net.” At the end of the age, God will separate the good fish from the bad fish. The good fish are collected in baskets and the bad fish are thrown away.

The fish represent all people at the end of the age. They are put into two different groupings, the bad are thrown away into a blazing furnace and the good fish are kept.

God’s Word tells us hell is a place of unrelieved torment and complete separation from God, wrapped in darkness and in eternal fire.

Jesus came to seek and save the lost from this fate. He offered Himself as payment for our badness (sin).

Hell is not the eternal home for anyone who has received Jesus as Lord and Savior, having been forgiven by God.

Jesus is the Good Fisherman. He is the only one who can distinguish and judge the good from the bad. He is the only one who can transform the bad into the good and provide the way to God’s Heavenly Kingdom.

John 14:6 “Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Our treasure is God, His Word and His Spirit. God’s gospel is worth more than money, health or success in the world.

Matthew 16:26 Jesus tells us there is a cost in following Him. The cost is worth it. Nothing else in this world is worth more eternally than the forgiveness of Jesus and the reign of His kingdom.

Main Truth: God’s Kingdom is worth any sacrifice

Application:

- Give up earning salvation
- Sell out for Christ

Small Group Discussion Questions

Treasures, Pearls and Nets Matthew 13:44-52

1. What is something you have that you would consider a treasure and why? It could be something collectible, valuable, a photograph, a memory.....
2. Discuss and explain the meaning of each of the three following parables:

Matthew 13:44 The Treasure: See Galatians 3:13, 1 Corinthians 6:20, 1 Peter 1:18

- a. What do you think the treasure represents?
- b. Whom does the buyer represent?
- c. What does hiding the treasure after it is found mean?
- d. How does this parable apply to us?

Matthew 13:45–46 The Pearl: See also 2 Corinthians 5:21 and Ephesians 2:10.

- a. What do you think the pearl represents?
- b. What did it take to obtain the pearl?
- c. How does this parable apply to us?

Matthew 13:47–50 the net

- a. What is caught in the dragnet and what is done with what is caught?
- b. How does Jesus describe the place where the wicked will be cast?
- c. How does this parable apply to us?

3. What does it mean to sell everything you own and buy the field or the pearl of great price?

4. Consider the question “What do I treasure most in life?”

- a. Is your immediate answer 100% truthful or did you give what the correct answer should be?
- b. What makes this question difficult?
- c. What are things we need to consider before answering this question honestly?

5. What is the most valuable treasure in the world? How do you obtain this treasure?

6. Read Matthew 28:18-20 What does Jesus command us to do with our treasure?

7. Have you obtained this treasure? What can you do to handle it correctly as Jesus has asked?

Personal Study Guide

Treasures of God

1 Peter 2:9-10

James 1:8

Deuteronomy 7:6

Exodus 19:5-8

Luke 12:33-34

Isaiah 62:3

Deuteronomy 26:18

Psalms 119:162

Psalms 119:11

Psalms 119:72

Proverbs 2:1-5

Philippians 3:7-10

Matthew 6:19-21

2 Corinthians 4:7

Isaiah 33:6

Deuteronomy 14:2

Malachi 3:17