

Matthew 13:44–52 (NirV)

The Stories of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl

⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure that was hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again. He was very happy. So he went and sold everything he had. And he bought that field.

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a trader who was looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶He found one that was very valuable. So he went away and sold everything he had. And he bought that pearl.

The Story of the Net

⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net. It was let down into the lake. It caught all kinds of fish. ⁴⁸When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and gathered the good fish into baskets. But they threw the bad fish away. ⁴⁹This is how it will be on judgment day. The angels will come. They will separate the people who did what is wrong from those who did what is right. ⁵⁰They will throw the evil people into the blazing furnace. There the evil ones will sob and grind their teeth.

⁵¹“Do you understand all these things?” Jesus asked.

“Yes,” they replied.

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

Matthew 13:44–52 (NirV)

What happened in reading?

1. Jesus explains “Kingdom of Heaven” (KOH) by Parable
2. KOH is like a treasure or pearl
3. A person would be eager to own great Pearl (KOH)
4. KOH is like net filled with fish bad and good
5. Angels will throw people into blazing furnace
6. Teachers bring many treasures out of KOH

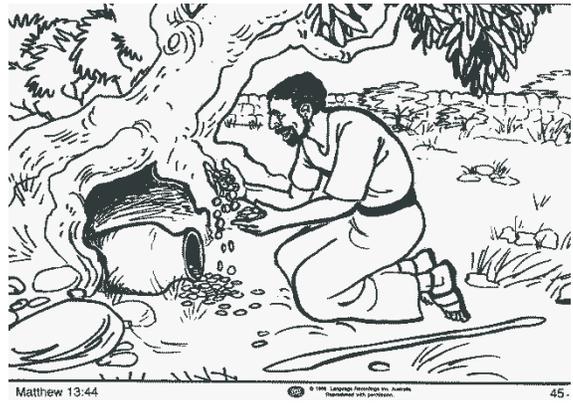
Law- Judgment Day is coming. People will be surprised when the net of God’s judgment comes over them. The angels will collect many people to hell. A great price is paid to get KOH.

Gospel- Jesus is our valuable treasure. God will take care of people believing in Jesus. While on earth we will be a treasure for other people.

Application- We need to make disciples because time is short. We should know that God is always there providing the treasure of His Son, Jesus. God our Father wants us to have this treasure.

Sermon

Intro



Seems, there are 2 interpretations to the verse of the hidden treasure and the pearl. The oldest interpretation says the treasure or the pearl really is the **Gospel** or **Christ** which is buried in the clutter (dirt, sin) of the world. The other interpretation is the treasure or pearl is **you** and **me**. Jesus is the man who comes finds the buried treasure or sees the valuable pearl, you and me, then gives everything he has to get the treasure or pearl...us. Both of these interpretations have their good points. The oldest interpretation helps us understand we are like the man, as we journey through life here on earth we see things of different value. Sometimes we find things of great value that are hidden. Some of the things we see are very valuable some are much of less value. Hopefully, when we hear or see Jesus and His work on the cross we know this is the greatest treasure of all and pearl beyond price. **Matthew 10:37** (NIV) “Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me. Anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.” We put all our hopes and dreams into Jesus and his perfect life. We can do

this by the faith our Gracious God has given us in Word and Sacraments. The newest interpretation that Jesus is the man finding the treasure and pearl makes us feel great comfort in that Jesus values us. Jesus sees us as treasure or pearl. Jesus is willing to give his life, his all for us. **Matthew 10:29–31** (Nlrv) “Aren’t two sparrows sold for only a penny? But not one of them falls to the ground without your Father knowing it. He even counts every hair on your head! So don’t be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows.”

Whether (no matter) we see Jesus and his Gospel as the treasure or Jesus see us as the treasure we are comforted. This is the goal of the Gospel to bring wicked and evil people that know the wrath (anger) of God is on them comfort and peace with him through Christ’s work.

Our reading also tells us the preaching of the Bible is like a giant net thrown over the world. **Isaiah 55:11** (Nlrv) “The words I speak are like that. They will not return to me without producing results. They will accomplish what I want them to. They will do exactly what I sent them to do.” This giant net of God’s Word captures all people. Some people believe God’s Word and are saved. Other people reject His life saving Word and sadly gain Hell. **2 Corinthians 2:16** (Nlrv) “To the one,

we are the smell of death. To the other, we are the perfume of life. Who is able to do that work?"

We see people of the world are compared to the fish in our reading. "Then they sat down and gathered the good fish into baskets. But they threw the bad fish away." "This is how it will be on judgment day. The angels will come. They will separate the people who did what is wrong from those who did what is right. "They will throw the evil people into the blazing furnace. There the evil ones will sob and grind their teeth."

When you and I believe in Jesus and we store his powerful Gospel in our hearts and minds. We become like storerooms for other people. Other people will run to us to hear God's comforting wisdom and advice. We become a place of refuge (protect) because we are in Christ. We become like a mustard seed. **Luke 13:19** (NIRV) "It is like a mustard seed. Someone took the seed and planted it in a garden. It grew and became a tree. The birds sat in its branches." Jesus is the head and we are the body serving Him and helping Him spread the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. The church people Jesus set up on earth are to take care of

his sheep (people). We are stewards (caretakers) of Kingdom of Heaven...Word and Sacraments.

We need to make disciples in Jesus name because time is short. True we cannot “make” or “do” anything by ourselves but because of the gifts the Holy Spirit in Word and Sacrament we can and must reach out to the world around us. People are dying in their sins and need to hear Jesus’ Gospel. We know that God our Father is always there providing the treasure of His Son, Jesus. God has given us this treasure and made us this treasure so we can enrich and help others to see their value in Christ. “God much loved the world that God sent His only Son that any person believing in Jesus would not die but receive eternal life.” Amen.