

Book Study – Matthew 13:44-58

Parable of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl, The Net and... A Prophet Without Honor



Before We Begin Our Journey...

1. What two or three expensive items do you wish you could afford?
2. What is your favorite "fish story"?
3. What do you like best and least about your hometown?



Do Some Digging and Pre-planning...

4. Explain in your own words what happened in the story here. ([13:44](#))
5. To what did Jesus compare the kingdom of heaven? ([13:45](#))
6. How did the man who found the pearl react to its discovery? ([13:46](#))
7. What is the common reaction to "finding" a "treasure" of great worth? (13:44-46)
8. How was the net used, and what was the result? ([13:47](#)) Why did Jesus use this analogy? (13:49)
9. To what did Jesus compare those in His audience who knew about the Old Testament law and the kingdom of heaven to come? ([13:52](#)) (*This one is HUGE...Think about it*)
10. What did Jesus do in His hometown? How did the people react? ([13:54-57](#))
11. What did Jesus not do in Nazareth—at least in any great amount? Why? ([13:58](#))



Sort, Organize, Gain Understanding...

12. If the gospel is true and heaven is our destiny, why are we often "ho-hum" about Christ and the Christian life?
13. How can we recover the joy and excitement that we had when we first met Christ?
14. How would it alter the way we live if we kept in mind the fact that God will judge us?
15. **Write your response...** How are you affected after reading these words spoken from the mouth of Jesus the Teacher, the Messiah? (confused, condemned, joyful, angry, challenged, despondent, happy)



Direction Finder...





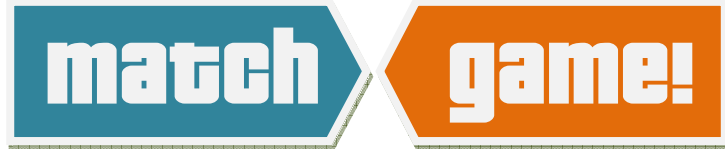
Application for the Journey...

16. What first step will you take to recover the joy of knowing Christ?
17. How can you show your gratitude to God today for making you a "good fish"?

A prayer for your journey...

"Lord Jesus, as I walk through this coming week, help me prepare for my journey by reading my Bible more regularly, seeking help as I need it from my Christian friends and focusing on the needs of others instead of myself. Help me to demonstrate my faith by stepping into the unknown, untried, and untested areas of my life." -Amen

Doing something to help pull together our study of the Parables Jesus told to explain the "Kingdom of Heaven," is not easy, but perhaps you may wish to complete this exercise that lets you match the Parable with its meaning and then write your own vision of "The Kingdom of Heaven."



(If you need help, find the scriptures in Matthew, but first try to match these parables with the correct meaning. Answers are at the bottom of the page.)

PARABLE

MEANING OF THE PARABLE

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. weeds (tares) | A. The Kingdom will grow large and strong giving benefit to all. |
| _____ 2. hidden treasure | B. The Kingdom provides joy and value, worth every possession. |
| _____ 3. pearl of great price | C. All are included in the Kingdom...but only the "good" are saved. |
| _____ 4. mustard seed | D. Reward / punishment await both the good and bad |
| _____ 5. yeast (leaven) | E. The Kingdom will spread everywhere and change everything. |
| _____ 6. a fishing net | F. The Kingdom requires all your talent, time and treasure. |

Try writing a brief sentence tying all the meanings into one statement that answers the question, "What is the Kingdom of Heaven like?" Use the lines below to write your sentence. Brief is Good!

The Kingdom of Heaven is...

