



## Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

### True Treasure is Yours! August 9-11<sup>th</sup>, 2020

#### Matthew 13:44-52

##### ***The Parable of the Hidden Treasure***

<sup>44</sup> "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.

##### ***The Parable of the Pearl***

<sup>45</sup> "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. <sup>46</sup> When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

##### ***The Parable of the Net***

<sup>47</sup> "Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. <sup>48</sup> 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. <sup>49</sup> This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous <sup>50</sup> and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>51</sup> "Have you understood all these things?" Jesus asked.

"Yes," they replied.

<sup>52</sup> 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."

1. If you found \$100,000 tonight what would you do?

Answers will vary.

2. What parts of the story show the value of treasure and pearl?

Both men gave up everything they had to get it. Apply that to your life, how much would something need to be worth for you to give up everything to get it? Hypothetically it would need to be considerably greater than the combined value of your home, vehicles, technology and all your possessions.

3. The treasure in Jesus story is *the kingdom of heaven*. That's everything God has done, is doing, and will do in your life. What are those things?

Starting in eternity, God elected you to be one of his children. God sent Jesus to earth to redeem us by his perfect life in our place. Jesus died on the cross to pay for the sins of the world. Jesus rose from the dead to guarantee your place in heaven. God has promised to be with you every moment on earth. Jesus has assured you that you can live without guilt. God has given your life an eternal purpose in his kingdom. God has promised he will wipe away every tear in heaven. What else can you think of?

4. Check out the lyrics to "Jesus Priceless Treasure" (#349 in *Christian Worship*, or google it.) Which lines best captures the value of Jesus for you?

I can't pick your favorite line for you, but here's the lyrics. (You still might want to google "Jesus Priceless Treasure The Lutheran Ceili Orchestra" or "Jesus Priceless Treasure Koine" to hear some awesome new renditions of this old hymn.)

Jesus, priceless treasure,  
Fount of purest pleasure,  
Truest friend to me.  
Ah, how long in anguish  
Shall my spirit languish,  
Yearning, Lord, for thee?  
Thou art mine, O Lamb divine!  
I will suffer naught to hide thee,  
Naught I ask beside thee.

In thine arms I rest me;  
 Foes who would molest me  
 Cannot reach me here.  
 Thou the earth be shaking,  
 Every heart be quaking,  
 Jesus calms my fear.  
 Lightnings flash and thunders crash;  
 Yet though sin and hell assail me,  
 Jesus will not fail me.

Satan, I defy thee;  
 Death, I now decry thee;  
 Fear, I bid thee cease.  
 World, thou shalt not harm me  
 Nor thy threats alarm me  
 While I sing of peace.  
 God's great pow'r Guards ev'ry hour;  
 Earth and all its depths adore him,  
 Silent bow before him.

Hence, all earthly treasure!  
 Jesus is my pleasure;  
 Jesus is my choice.  
 Hence, all empty glory!  
 Naught to me thy story  
 Told with tempting voice.  
 Pain or loss or shame or cross  
 Shall not from my Savior move me  
 Since he deigns to love me.

Hence, all fear and sadness!  
 For the Lord of gladness,  
 Jesus, enters in.  
 Those who love the Father,  
 Though the storms may gather,  
 Still have peace within.  
 Yea, whate'er I here must bear,  
 Thou art still my purest pleasure,  
 Jesus priceless treasure!

5. If you sold everything to get a \$3 million pearl, what would you do with it? Apply your answers to what you do with the Jesus.

Pearl	Jesus
• Look at it.....	• Read about him
• Show it off.....	• Tell others about him
• Find joy in it.....	• Find your comfort in him
• Protect it.....	• Hold onto your faith in him

6. What's the main point of The Parable of the Net? (Hint: Look at Jesus' explanation in v. 49-50.)

The main point is that judgment day is coming. People have found many other parallels regarding the net, the fish, the shore, etc. But Jesus' explanation indicates that the main point is that at Judgement day the wicked people will go to hell just like bad fish will be thrown away. Every other detail supports that main point. Don't dismiss the comparisons, but recognize that they support the main theme which Jesus identified.

7. Name some ways The Parable of the Net makes the treasure more valuable.

On judgement day, the value of Jesus work in our lives will become known to everyone.

On judgement day, we will better understand the value of Jesus. Jesus endured the hell that he described so that you could be included in the kingdom of heaven—that means the cost of this treasure was Jesus enduring weeping and gnashing of teeth.

8. If bank account kept having new money in it, how would that change your generosity? Since your heart keeps having new Jesus-treasure in it, how does it change your gospel-sharing?

Hopefully generosity would increase as money increased. You could support your lifestyle AND give more generously.

That's exactly how it is with Jesus. You can gain personal comfort from all he's done for you AND give that comfort away, without losing anything. We can share Jesus generously, but we want to keep being instructed in the kingdom of heaven, all that God does for us.

9. As a group can you come up with 5 ways to invite someone to experience the priceless treasure of Jesus this week?

Here's a few. You can think of many more:

- Share the link to our online worship.
- Give them a postcard invite to an in-person worship service. (Ask a pastor if you'd like to get a post card.)
- Text them a comforting Bible passage.
- Invite them to your Life Group.
- Encourage them to join the Bible app and invite them to read a plan with you.
- Tell them what you're praying for them.
- Send them an encouraging Christian song, maybe one of those renditions of "Jesus Priceless Treasure" from question 4.)