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Parables of the Hidden Treasure and Priceless Pearl

Reminders on Parables:

- Often come in pairs or threes
- Normally have one clear meaning
- Context matters
- Jesus' interpretation trumps all
- Avoid allegorizing everything
- Culture matters; sometimes details do

I. Read the two parables in Matthew 13:44-46

⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure, buried in a field, that a man found and reburied. Then in his joy he goes and sells everything he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls.⁴⁶ When he found one priceless pearl, he went and sold everything he had, and bought it.

II. Discuss the following questions at the table:

- a. Who are these parables told to?
- b. What does the first man find?
- c. What does he do?
- d. Why do you think he does it?
- e. Who/What is the focus? What is the point?
- f. What does the second man find?
- g. What does he do?
- h. Why do you think he does it?
- i. Who/What is the focus? What is the point?
- j. How are these parables similar?
- k. How are these parables different?

III. So what?

- a. What do you think the main point of these two parables is? Why?

- b. What does this mean for you/us today?

- c. Who are you most like in these parables?

- d. What, if anything, would you struggle to give up for the Gospel? Think about relationships, possessions, ambitions, etc.

- e. What, if anything, has following Christ ever cost you?

- f. How would you modernize the parable to explain it to a friend?

Other verses to consider in no particular order:

- Matthew 16:24-26
- Romans 1:16
- Romans 9:30
- Philippians 3:8-10
- Hebrews 11:24-26