

MYSTERY & MAJESTY

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What's It Worth?

**All scriptures use the English Standard Version (ESV)
unless otherwise indicated**

Matthew 13:44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

- Kingdom of heaven & kingdom of God are synonymous.
- Matthew uses it because of his Jewish audience.
- The kingdom of heaven is the sovereign rule of God arriving through the person, work, authority, and reign of Jesus Christ.
- In the ancient world, people often hid valuables in the ground.
- There were no banks or safes.

- If war, invasion, taxation, theft, or sudden displacement threatened a family, burying it was a common way to preserve it.
- But if the owner died, was exiled, or never returned, the treasure could remain hidden.
- This parable represents people who were not looking for God but God were found.
- He is motivated by joy.

Matthew 13:45-46 45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, 46 who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

- This man is searching.
- Pearls were among the most valuable luxury items in the ancient world.
- Pearls were rare, difficult to obtain, and highly prized by the wealthy.
- A pearl merchant would be a knowledgeable trader.
- This represents people who are searching for truth, meaning, satisfaction, or identity.
- He sells all to possess one pearl.
- The kingdom is the supreme treasure that reorders every other value.

- The kingdom is priceless.

Matthew 13:47-50 47 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. 48 When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. 49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous 50 and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

- The net focuses on final separation and judgment.
- Because of Jewish dietary laws, some sea creatures would be considered unclean and thrown away.
- The sea represents the world.
- The net represents the gospel and plan of God throughout history.
- The shore represents the end of the age.
- The sorting represents final judgment.
- They sit down – thoughtful. Not careless.

This connects to other Matthew parables:

- Wheat and weeds grow together until harvest.
- Good and bad fish are gathered in the same net until sorting.

- Wise and foolish virgins are all waiting for the bridegroom in Matthew 25.
- Sheep and goats are separated at final judgment in Matthew 25.

This is extremely close to the explanation of the wheat and weeds:

- Harvest – end of the age.
- Reapers – angels.
- Separation – final judgment.
- Fire/weeping/gnashing – judgment imagery.
- The net parable repeats the warning so nobody misses it.

Matthew 13:51-52 51 “Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” 52 And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

- The danger is hearing kingdom truth without being changed by it.
- A scribe was an expert in Scripture, teaching, interpretation, and the Law.

- Old treasures: the Old Testament Scriptures, promises, foundations, prophecies, and story of God's redemptive plan.
- New treasures: the teachings of Jesus and the revelation of the New Covenant.
- Whatever you receive, you are responsible to share.

A trained kingdom disciple should:

- Read Scripture.
- Understand Scripture.
- Love Scripture.
- Speak Scripture.
- Share the gospel.
- Pray for the lost.
- Serve in the kingdom.
- Give generously.
- Live fruitfully.
- Refuse passive Christianity.