



What do you treasure above all else and how do you keep it secure? In a peasant community, the best safe was often the earth. The man in the parable "went in his joy" to sell everything he had (Matthew 13:44). Why? Because he found a hidden treasure worth possessing above everything else he had. He did not, however, have enough to buy the treasure. Fortunately, he only needed enough money to buy the field. In a similar fashion, God offers his kingdom as incomparable treasure at a price we can afford! We can't pay the full price for the rich and abundant life which God offers us - but when we willingly exchange our life for the life which God offers, we receive a treasure beyond compare.

### ***Searching for the greatest treasure of all***

The pearl of great price also tells us a similar lesson (Matthew 13:45). Pearls in the ancient world came to represent the supremely valuable. Why would a merchant sell everything for a single pearl of peerless value? No doubt because he was attracted to what he thought was the greatest treasure he could possess for himself. Do you recognize and value the hidden treasure of God's kingdom and the peerless pearl which the Lord Jesus offers to all who believe in him?

### ***Discovering heavenly treasure***

Discovering God's kingdom is like stumbling across a hidden treasure or

finding the one pearl of great price. When we discover the kingdom of God we receive the greatest possible treasure - the Lord himself. Selling all that we have to obtain this incomparable treasure could mean many things - our friends, possessions, job, our "style of life", what we do with our free time. Treasure has a special connection to the heart, the place of desire and longing, the place of will and focus. The thing we most set our heart on is our highest treasure.

Speaking of the "search for God" is another way of saying that God is a profound Mystery of Faith. As a divine "Mystery" it's important to understand that we can never fully "find" God. We certainly can find Him, understand Him, come to know Him and give our lives to Him. But we can never do so fully. The truth is that the more we come to know God, the more we seek Him and the more we seek Him the more we realize we do not fully know Him. The discovery of the beauty, value, mystery, power, and glory of God and His Kingdom is what life must be about. We must spend this life searching, finding, and searching more.

In this parable what does the treasure of the kingdom of heaven refer to? It certainly refers to the kingdom of God in all its aspects - a kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. But in a special way, the Lord himself is the treasure we seek. Is the Lord the treasure and delight of your heart?

**Let us pray:**

Lord Jesus, reveal to me the true riches of your kingdom. Help me to set my heart on you alone as the treasure beyond compare with any other. Free my heart of any inordinate desires or attachment to other things that I may freely give to you all that I have in joy and gratitude for all that you have given to me. May I always find joy and delight in your presence.

**Jesus, I Trust in You**