

# FIREPROOF Bible Study

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*Matthew 13:44-50 "The Treasure, The Pearl, The Net"*

**Introduction:** Nearing the end of our look at parables, today we see three brief stories comparing the kingdom of heaven to familiar objects.

Turn or click to Matthew 13:44-50

*Read Matthew 13:44*

Many times when it comes to Bible study, we can read long passages and distill a very simple message from it. In contrast, this one singular verse can be expanded to say much about what we know about the kingdom of heaven. Jesus compares God's kingdom to a "treasure hidden in a field." This treasure was found by a man, and he enjoyed it, but then he hid it again, sold all his possessions, and bought the field with the buried treasure. We must understand that this verse does not mean that we can hide our faith in God. Think of it this way – the man who found the treasure put it back where he found it so someone else could come along and discover it as well. This great gift of salvation is something that we can sometimes stumble upon, and once we find it we must pay reverence to the One who gave it to us. In this way, the man who found the treasure sold all he had and put his entire lot in that field with the treasure.

*Read Matthew 13:45-46*

God's promises are precious and we must cherish them just as the merchant cherished his newfound beautiful pearl. They will provide for us all that we need, so we can turn our back on the rest of the worldly things we often invest in and instead put all our faith in God. It's important to realize how much God wants us to love him fully as he has loved us. This passage and the previous, as well as many others in the Bible, tell us that God really wants only one thing from us – to have our entire focus. It may seem like a huge step, but God provides us ways to accomplish it.

*Read Matthew 13:47-50*

Lastly, we see a tale about our faith and consequences. Because we have been given promises and opportunities by God, we must use our gifts and talents, which are also provisions, for Him so we can be pleasing and good, otherwise we will be condemned. This may seem like a harsh truth, but just as the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl taught us, God simply wants us to give up our lives to Him. The Net also shows that just as we can encounter God's kingdom by searching for it as with the Pearl, it can also come to us.

God Bless,  
Stay FIREPROOF.