

## Matthew 13:44-52 (Pentecost Study 9)

<sup>44</sup> "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field. In his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field. <sup>45</sup> "Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant on the lookout for choice pearls. <sup>46</sup> When he discovered a pearl of great value, he sold everything he owned and bought it! <sup>47</sup> "Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a fishing net that was thrown into the water and caught fish of every kind. <sup>48</sup> When the net was full, they dragged it up onto the shore, sat down, and sorted the good fish into crates, but threw the bad ones away. <sup>49</sup> That is the way it will be at the end of the world. The angels will come and separate the wicked people from the righteous, <sup>50</sup> throwing the wicked into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>51</sup> Do you understand all these things?" "Yes," they said, "we do." <sup>52</sup> Then he added, "Every teacher of religious law who becomes a disciple in the Kingdom of Heaven is like a homeowner who brings from his storeroom new gems of truth as well as old."

Q.1. If you were working in someone else's field and found a jar of coins would you: i. tell the owner or ii. Hide it for yourself or iii. Rebury it and try to buy the field?

Q.2. What is Jesus' main point in v.44? How is God's kingdom like that?

Q.3. In vv.45-46 the merchant will do what to secure a priceless pearl?

Q.4. What do these two parables teach us about the value of the kingdom?

Q.5. What is the parable of the net's main point vv.47-48?

Q.6. What does the parable of the net teach us about God's kingdom?

Q.7. Review the parable of the wheat & weeds vv.36-43 and vv.49-50; how are they alike?

Q.8. At the end of the age the angels will separate people into two groups – righteous and wicked; what happens to both groups?

Q.9. In v.50 Jesus says the wicked will be thrown into 'the fiery furnace'; what usually happens in a furnace? Is Jesus being literal or using a metaphor?

Q.10. How might these 3 parables help the disciples understand what's important in their future ministries?

Q.11. Who are the teachers of the law who become Jesus' disciples v.52?

Q.12. What are the new gems and old gems they are to teach?

### **Application: for reflection, prayer and action**

Q.13. What type of person does the first two parables invite us to be?

Q.14. Do you feel the urgency of the parable of the net for yourself; for others? Who?

Q.15. How valuable is God's kingdom to you?

Q.16. Which group of v.49 will you be in? How might other people tell?

Q.17. Do you think v.52 refers to you? If so – who can you teach/share the Good News of the kingdom with?

### **Matt 13:44-52 (my suggested answers)**

**NB.** Please answer the questions yourself. We all have different ways of answering; God may give you greater insights than mine. Put '*John thinks*' ... before each answer.

Q.1. Your answer.

Q.2. The main point is the '*urgency and willingness to sacrifice everything*' to acquire the treasure. It should be our same goal = finding, keeping and exhibiting the Good News of the kingdom in us and through us to others.

Q.3. He will not count the cost but do everything in his power to find, buy and keep the pearl of great price.

Q.4. God's kingdom (his saving rule) is the most important and valuable thing to be in and under – it is our key to real life in following Jesus.

Q.5. The parable of the net's main point is to warn us of the coming separation in God's kingdom- we must be urgent about being in the family of the righteous or risk being thrown out at the end.

Q.6. The kingdom (world) is now filled with both righteous and wicked (wheat & weeds) but at the end of the age there will be a great separation and only the righteous will be resurrected to life in the kingdom of the new creation.

Q.7. They both teach the final separation of people at the end of this age.

Q.8. The wicked are sent to the fiery furnace (?) and frustration, while the righteous enter the kingdom of the new creation see Rev 20-21.

Q.9. In a furnace, things burn up; but I think the image of the furnace and gnashing of teeth is a metaphor of separation and frustration that will be experienced by non-believers.

Q.10. These 3 will help them realise the urgency of announcing the good news of the kingdom and urging people to repent and follow Jesus to avoid the furnace.

Q.11. They are people like Nikodemus, Joseph of Arimathea, and the Pharisees mentioned in Acts 15 – who in following Jesus rightly teach the old and the new.

Q.12. The old is the key ideas of the OT – creation, fall, the covenants of Abraham and David, the Law of Moses and the Messiah. The new is the fulfilment of the old in Jesus' ministry (later in his death & resurrection)

Q.13. They invite us to be urgent about God's kingdom = living under God's saving reign. It should be our highest priority as followers of Jesus – loving God & others

Q.14. Your answer.

Q.15. Your answer

Q.16. We can teach/share with children, grand-children, neighbours and anyone who might be interested.