

## Treasure

There are many movies about the excitement of searching for buried treasure. Pirates are most often depicted in this role. If they find a treasure map they are off on the hunt for riches. It is a great storyline.



In *Matthew 13* Jesus shares three interrelated parables about the Kingdom of Heaven. First is the parable about a man who found a treasure hidden in a field. The man sold everything he had and bought the entire field – and its hidden treasure.

Second is the parable about a merchant looking for fine pearls. Once the merchant found the prized pearl, he sold everything he had to buy it.

Third, Jesus described the Kingdom of Heaven as a net that was let down into the sea, catching all kinds of fish. The fish were sorted, separating the good fish from the bad.

The three people in the parables are the same person. The man, the merchant, and the fisherman are Jesus Christ. Jesus gave everything he had to buy a treasure – you. He loved you that much, He invested in you at the cost of His own life. You have great value, so much so that Jesus gave up everything – for you.

What about the net? In the end, the angels will separate the people of faith from those who reject Him. Jesus has done everything He can for you. Now, it is up to you to determine in which basket the angels will place you. Heaven is the basket for the faithful.

They haven't sorted yet. You still have the opportunity to be of faith and be placed in the heavenly basket. You are worth it! Jesus gave His life for you but the decision to accept it is up to you.

**Question:** What does it mean to you knowing Jesus gave His life for you?

**Scripture:** *The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea, and gathering fish of every kind; and when it was filled, they drew it up on the beach; and they sat down and gathered the good fish into containers, but the bad they threw away. So it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come forth and take out the wicked from among the righteous, and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 13:44-50).*

**Prayer:** We thank You, Jesus, for trading Your life for ours. We thank You for believing in us so we can choose to live in faith with You.

(The photo is Rembrandt's c1630 painting called "Hidden Treasurers," the basis for this story.)