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The Treasure and the Pearl

⁴⁴"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. ⁴⁵"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. **Matthew 13:44-46 (NIV)**

These parables make a point that is spiritual: everything this world deems worthwhile or important counts a sheer loss.

⁷But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ **Philippians 3:7-8 (NIV)**

1. The kingdom is _____ in value
 - This treasure is incorruptible, undefiled, unfading, eternal and reserved in heaven for believers (1 Peter 1:4)
2. The kingdom is not superficially (outwardly, at first glance) _____
 - The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Corinthians 2:14)
 - Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. (John 3:3)
 - There are none who seek after God. (Romans 3:11)

⁷"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks

finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

Matthew 7:7-8 (NIV)

3. The kingdom is _____ given to each individual
 - The key figure in each of these parables is an individual

4. The kingdom is the true source of real _____.

¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full. **John 15:11 (NKJV)**

¹⁷ for the kingdom of God is ... righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. **Romans 14:17 (NKJV)**

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! **Philippians 4:4 (NKJV)**

5. Not everyone comes to the kingdom by the same approach
 - In both cases, it is God who ordains their discovery of Christ; dealing with all as individuals, drawing them all to himself until they surrender their sinful hearts to Him. That is saving faith.
6. Saving faith has a high _____

³⁷"Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. **Matthew 10:37-39 (NIV)**

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. **Matthew 16:24 (NIV)**

My Next Step Today Is To...

- Meditate/memorize Philippians 3:7-8
- View my salvation as something so precious that I will give everything else away so I might obtain it fully and completely.
- Repent of my sins and accept God's treasure of salvation as my own.