

# FOLLOW-THROUGH

Small Group Discussion around the Sunday Message  
Matthew 13:44-46, The Parable of the Treasure and Pearl  
October 22, 2006

## Introduction

1. Read Matthew 13:44-46
2. These are two parables used to emphasize the same point about the Kingdom of God. What emphasis do you think it is making?
3. A little introspection: What is your most treasured possession? Other than people, what thing would you count the most valuable to you?



## Getting Inside the Parable

1. This is a parable about finding something of such great worth that to have it is worthy of giving up everything else? What do you think makes this treasure so worth such sacrifice?
2. The Kingdom of Heaven referred to in the parable, in the simplest of terms, means surrendering to Jesus' kingship in our lives and looking forward to the fulfillment of that when he returns again. Do you have a sense that people are genuinely excited about Jesus' kingship in their lives? Why or Why not?

## Digging Deeper

1. We are so passionate about our sports teams that we will scream, paint our faces and do goofy dances (at least some of us are). Yet, that is a temporary thing and in the end just a game. Jesus kingship, his victory over sin is eternal. Why do you think most people don't have the same kind of passion about their faith?
2. Share with the group how Jesus has had an impact on your life.
3. I think most of us don't fully get God's greatness, or appreciate his grace because we just haven't seen how badly we are in need of it. It is human nature to take things for granted. Share in your group some responses to Romans 5:8, "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
4. Most people don't understand their need for a savior because we usually hold the mirror up to other people first. If we look better than them, then we feel pretty good about ourselves. First and foremost to being sold out, one must surrender to the fact that they are a sinner. This may sound funny, but share with those in the group that you are a sinner. If your group feels comfortable, you may even want to confess specific faults to each other.
5. God's grace covers all. The word Atonement means to "cover up". Our sin is completely washed away. Look each other in the eye and say, "you are forgiven by Jesus blood shed on the cross."
6. Read Exodus 19:5 and then look at Matthew 13:44 again. Note any similarities. What may be significant about that?
7. Jesus gave his all for us, the natural response is to worship him with everything. Why do you think worship so often gets focused on our needs vs. our response and thankfulness to God?
8. What are the things that mark authentic, real and from the heart worship of God?
9. God desires not just our Sunday mornings, but our lives. He gave all for us, we are called to be sold out for him. What are some ways that we can begin to express that?
10. Close with prayer, focusing on God's great grace and our need for it.