

17<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY A 2008  
Matt: 13: 44-52

The kingdom of God is like a treasure...

IT SEEMS WE HUMAN BEINGS ARE ALWAYS SEARCHING FOR TREASURES.

WE SPEND BILLIONS OF DOLLARS ON LOTTERY TICKETS,  
HOPING TO HIT THE JACKPOT.

METAL DETECTORS ENABLE US TO COMB BEACHES AND PARKS  
LOOKING FOR COINS AND OTHER POSSIBLE TREASURES.

TV GAMES SHOWS ARE VERY POPULAR.

OUR SEARCH FOR TREASURES ISN'T NECESSARILY AN INDICATION  
THAT WE ARE UNHAPPY.

**IT IS AN INDICATION**

**THAT WE HOPE FOR MORE.**

SO IT IS WITH OUR LIFE WITH GOD.

WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN SO MUCH

- OUR LIFE IN CHRIST
- THE PROMISE OF ETERNAL LIFE
- MEMBERS OF THE MYSTICAL BODY OF CHRIST

AND WE KNOW THAT MORE IS COMING.

TODAY'S THREE PARABLES INVITE US TO THINK

ABOUT OUR RESPONSE AND OUR COMMITMENT TO  
WHAT WE THINK IS IMPORTANT IN LIFE.

**NOTICE HOW THE THREE PARABLES DESCRIBE**

**THE DIFFERENT WAYS PEOPLE FIND THE KINGDOM.**

**WHICH ONE BEST DESCRIBES YOUR EXPERIENCE?**

- BY CHANCE (HAPPENS UPON THE TRESURE IN THE FIELD)
- BY DILIGENT SEARCHING ( SEARCHING FOR FINE PEARLS )
- BY CAREFUL DISCERNMENT. (SEPARATING THE GOOD FISH )  
FROM THE BAD ONES)

NO MATTER WHICH WAY WE FIND THE KINGDOM

THERE ARE TWO THINGS THAT ARE NEEDED:

FIRST – THE WISDOM TO RECOGNIZE THE WORTH OF THE KINGDOM

WHEN IT APPEARS,

SECOND - THE BOLDNESS TO THEN STAKE EVERYTHING

ON THE KINGDOM, -TO SELL ALL.

**THE GOSPEL INVITES US TO BE WISE AND TO BE BOLD.**

THE FIRST READING SPEAKS ABOUT THE KIND OF WISDOM

THAT IS REQUIRED – THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON

WHERE WE CAN RECOGNIZE THE GREAT TREASURE

OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

THE COMPUTER AND INTERNET HAVE ALLOWED US

TO ACCUMULATE KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION

AT AN ASTONISHING RATE.

BUT NOT ALL KNOWLEDGE AND INFROMATION

ARE EQUALLY VALUABLE:

A DISCERNING HEART IS NEEDED TO DISTINGUISH

WHAT IS OF VALUE AND WHAT IS NOT.

WITH SO MANY GOODS AT HAND,

IT IS DIFFICULT TO KEEP OUR SIGHT

ON WHAT IS THE TRUE TRASURE

TODAY'S GOSPEL SUGGEST TO ME

THAT LIVING THE PASCHAL MYSTERY

IS LESS SOMETHING THAT WE ACTUALLY "SEARCH" FOR

AND MORE SOMETHING WE LIVE.

PERHAPS THIS STORY MAY BE OF SOME HELP TO EXPLAIN THIS.

IN HIS BOOK, STEPHEN BAUMAN

WRITES ABOUT HIS FRIEND DAN,

WHO IS FULL TIME VOLUNTEER

AT AN AGENCY FOR HOMELESS TEENS.

DAN'S BANKING CAREER WAS SOARING

WHEN HE DECIDED TO TAKE A YEAR'S LEAVE

TO WORK WITH KIDS.

LATE ONE NIGHT BAUMAN ASKED DAN WHY.

"DAN SAID THAT IT CAME DOWN TO AN EXCHANGE WITH HIS BOSS

ONE FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

DAN HAD PROMISED HIMSELF HE WOULD SPEND SATURDAY

WITH HIS TWO SONS

WHOM HE RARELY SAW AND SORELY MISSED.

HIS BOSS SAID AN IMPORTANT MEETING HAD BEEN CALLED  
FOR 10 THE NEXT MORNING.

DAN REPLIED THT HE HAD PROMISED THE DAY TO HIS BOYS.  
THE BOSS IMMEDIATELY SHOT BACK

THAT IF DAN WISHED TO REMAIN PART OF THE TEAM  
HE WOULD HAVE TO CHANGE HIS ATTITUDE.

IF HE WAS REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT HIS CAREER,

HIS BOYS WOULD HAVE TO RAISE THEMSELVES.

HOWEVER, HE WOULD BE THE BEST DAMN PROVIDER

THEY COULD EVER WANT OR NEED!

DAN SAID THAT WHEN IT WAS PUT TO HIM THAT WAY,

HIS DECISION WAS REALLY QUITE EASY.

HIS LIFE ISSUES HAD NEVER BEEN IN SHARPER FOCUS.

HE WAS GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAY THAT

ON SATURDAY HE WOULD BE PLAYING HARDBALL

ON ANOTHER FIELD.”

SOMETIMES WE BECOME SO OBSESSED

WITH CREATING A LIFE STYLE

OR SO ROUTINELY DOING THE SAME THING

THAT WE FAIL TO EMBRACE THE TREASURES OF LIFE ITSELF.

DAN WAS GIVEN THE CHANCE

TO DISCOVER WHAT HE REALLY WANTED HIS LIFE TO BE ABOUT.

TODAY JESUS REMINDS US TO SEEK

THE “TREASURES” AND “PEARLS” OF LASTING VALUE,

THE THINGS THAT ARE OF GOD:

- THE LOVE OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS
- THE SUPPORT GIVEN AND RECEIVED IN BEING A PART  
OF THIS FAITH COMMUNITY.,
- THE SENSE OF INTEGRITY IN PROVIDING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
FOR YOUR CHILDREN AND FAMILY.
- THE GIVING BACK OF OUR TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE  
FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS.

TODAY EACH OF US IS ASKED TO ANSWER JESUS’ QUESTION

THAT IS POSED IN HIS PARABLES TO US TODAY:

WHAT IS THERE IN THIS WORLD

EXCEPT THOSE YOU LOVE

THAT IS WORTH EVERYTHING YOU HAVE?

IF

YOU HAVE NOT FOUND THE KINGDOM OF GOD,

THEN YOU HAVE MISSED THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

THE TRESURE IN THE FIELD

WORTH SELLING EVERYTHING YOU HAVE.

I HOPE YOU FIND IT TODAY.