

DISCUSSION GUIDE

AS TOLD BY JESUS – THE TREASURE

Key Scriptures:

Matthew 13:44-46, Isaiah 53:2, John 7:17, Psalm 66:18, 1 John 4:20, John 16:22

Discussion Questions:

1. **Read Matthew 13:44-46** again. What do you notice first?
2. How are these two parables similar? How are they different? What do you think is meaningful about the differences?
3. What do you think the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price in these stories represent? Why are they so valuable that Jesus says the person who finds them will give up everything else to possess them?
4. Could you ever imagine selling everything you possessed to gain something else? What could possibly be worth that much to you that in gaining whatever it was, you would give everything away with joy?
5. Was there in a time in your life when you remember discovering the treasure of Christ's love and grace and the "unimaginable splendor" of it all led you a place of joy and surrender?
6. Augustine once wrote, "You must love things in the right order so that you do not love what is not to be loved, or fail to love what is to be loved, or have a greater love for what should be loved less, or an equal love for things that should be loved less or more, or a lesser or greater love for things that should be loved equally." When it comes to Christ and his Kingdom, have you 'ordered your loves rightly'? What is it that tends to get out of order and jump ahead of Christ in line?

Next Steps:

Examine your own heart in the light of these parables? Where is your treasure? What step can you take this week to change it?