

The Gospel of Matthew #97

**LAST THREE PARABLES:
THE ULTIMATE CONTRAST**

Matthew 13:44-50

Final unit of 3 parables:

Buried Treasure – Magnificent Pearl – Separating Fish in Net

Every single person in this room will have either Treasure or Torment

I. Treasure

2 parables: why 2? What is the difference?

- a) treasure accidentally discovered
- b) pearl was intensely sought after

God captures some people off guard, others after a diligent search

Lessons of the parables:

A. They _____ the value of what they had found

Contrast many today:

B. They _____ to have it, whatever the cost

C. They acquired it at great _____

D. The possession of it produced _____ beyond words

Do you see Christ's Kingdom as your chief JOY?

And your relationship with Him your chief delight?

II. Torment

See the everyday picture of separating fish from a dragnet

Why is this added after the Treasure & Pearl?

It is so similar to the Weeds parable; why repeat?

Because

- a) it is a contrast to Treasure & Pearl: life not just getting or missing out on the Treasure of the Kingdom; the contrast is far more stark than that;
- b) ends with a final warning for emphasis!

Lessons of this parable:

A. There *will* be a final Judgment for *everyone*. For YOU

B. Everyone will be separated into two destinies forever. Either/or. Nothing in between

- C. The fate of the wicked will be too terrible to contemplate
 - Fiery furnace (symbolic)
 - Weeping & gnashing of teeth (literal)

Treasure or Torment—for every single person who hears my voice
And it is almost sure that not everyone listening will be in Heaven

Come while you still have a chance!

Invitations of 11:28-30

12:48-50

Warning to heed in 13:47-50

Staff pastors up front to pray with you.