

## Reading & Prayer

### Hidden Treasure

44 “The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

### A Costly Pearl

45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, 46 and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

### A Dragnet

47 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea, and gathering fish of every kind; 48 and when it was filled, they drew it up on the beach; and they sat down and gathered the good fish into containers, but the bad they threw away.

49 So it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come forth and take out the wicked from among the righteous, 50 and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

51 “Have you understood all these things?” They said to Him, “Yes.” 52 And Jesus said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a head of a household, who brings out of his treasure things new and old.”

### Jesus Revisits Nazareth

53 When Jesus had finished these parables, He departed from there. 54 He came to His hometown and began teaching them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, “Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers? 55 Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? 56 And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this man get all these things?” 57 And they took offense at Him. But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household.” 58 And He did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief.

## **start reading. read together the main scripture for this study**

### **reading #1**

In reading these verses of scripture, what would you circle, highlight, or underline as important to know or understand? Is there anything you noticed for the first time?

**Is there one word or phrase the Holy Spirit impresses upon you? Meditate on that.**

## **start thinking. ask a thoughtful question**

**Is there anything in these three parables that push back against your mind/heart (inner life)?**

## **start sharing. engage it with your story**

**What specific situation in your life relates today? Write down a prayer or pray quietly.**

**What did the Holy Spirit speak to you personally about during the sermon? Was there anything that caught you attention, challenged, or confused you?**

What do you imagine/dream about that says "If I just had **this** everything would be alright."?

How is the Kingdom of God adequate to fulfilling every desire of your heart?

How has your life taken on an "increasing" value since giving up your life for the life of God?

## **start practicing. commit to a next step and live it out this week**

**What is God's personal invitation to you from the scripture? You can write down what the Lord may be saying to you or a prayer of thanks. Or simply rest quiet in the Spirit's presence.**

## **start praying. be bold and pray with power**