



Gospel Matthew 13: 44-50

44 "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls.

46 When he finds a pearl of great value, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it.

More than the message that you must give up everything to get into the Kingdom of Heaven, I think the message is once you are enlightened, once you embrace God's love, you happily change your life, you recover, you put others first, you make better choices, you happily rid your life of the things that hold you back.

The faith journey we all take is individual to each one of us, no two paths are alike. Whether your faith came as a child, raised in a faith filled household with your parents as shining examples, or you stumbled your way through life and happened upon it, we all come to the Kingdom in our own way.

The parables today highlight what the person in the field, and the merchant are willing to give up, or sell, to acquire the treasure or pearl. They happily sell everything to insure they have what their soul desires. Seemingly without hesitation, our two characters make huge life choices, never to be the same.

Did they even have a choice? Could they have seen the treasure, held the pearl, and just walked away?



For some, recognition of God's love, the development of their faith is instant, without question they just know, they embrace it, grow within it. Others, we are called to it, encouraged as we move through our lives to study, and explore. We know we are searching, longing to find our way. Like the person in the field or the merchant searching for the pearl. God plants that seed in us to seek him out, and those who are already blessed with their faith, guide us along the way.

Once you hold the pearl, once you see the treasure, you cannot let it go, it is truth, it is love, it is our faith. This Easter, as we celebrate God's love and Christ's resurrection, keep those still searching in your prayers.

Written by Stephen Waite, a member of our Stewardship Committee

PRAYING THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

Begin with the Our Father, Hail Mary, and the Apostles Creed. Using regular rosary beads, work your way around the five decades with the prayers below.

On the standalone beads, pray: "Eternal Father, I offer you the body, blood, soul, and divinity of your dearly beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world."

On the decade beads, pray: "For the sake of his sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world." At the end, pray the following three times: "Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world."

It is typical to conclude the Divine Mercy Chaplet with the words: "Jesus, I trust in you."