

**Year A, Week 21 (April 20, 2008)**

**Matthew 13:44-46**

**Kingdom of heaven: Parables of Field and Pearl**

**Hymn suggestion:** *King of Kings and Lord of Lords* or *Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God*

**Items Needed:**

- Optional (not supplied): gold coins or real coins, perhaps in some sort of box
- Optional (not supplied): a fake pearl, pearl jewelry, or some sort of bead
- If you don't bring in coins or a pearl, you could use some figure to very simply act out the stories.

While Jesus was on Earth, he talked about the kingdom of God. When the crowds heard him, they probably thought about a king like King David, who was mighty in battle. But Jesus talked about a different kind of kingdom, the kingdom of heaven.

He said the kingdom of heaven is like buried treasure. (*Hold out your hand with the box of coins.*)

One day, a man was out in a field and found the buried treasure. So the man hid the treasure back in the dirt.

Then he went back to his home, and, in his joy, he sold everything he had so that he could buy that field – and its buried treasure. The man joyfully gave up everything he had to get that treasure.

Jesus said the kingdom of heaven is also like a shopkeeper who was searching for fine pearls (*hold out the pearls or beads in your hand*).

One day, the shopkeeper found the best pearl, the most perfect pearl, the pearl he'd always been looking for.

So the shopkeeper sold everything else he owned and bought that one pearl.

If you know this song and feel comfortable, you might want to teach it to the kids:

Seek ye first the kingdom of God  
And His righteousness,  
And All these things will be added unto you  
Allelu, alleluia.

**Questions without Response:**

- I wonder ... what it would be like to find buried treasure?
- I wonder ... if you know what it's like to *really* want something?
- I wonder ... if you've ever wanted anything so much that you would give up everything else to get it?

- I wonder ... if it's wise to behave like that? I wonder if sometimes God wants us to be childlike or even foolish?
- I wonder ... if we will ever want God and his kingdom so much that we would give up everything else.