

July 30th 2023 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time – Year A – Matthew 13:44-52

⁴⁴'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age.

The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' ⁵²And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

<p>➤ Read and re-read – out loud and slowly the Gospel.</p> <p>➤ Meditate - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life</p>	<p>➤ Pray - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition</p> <p>➤ Action – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do</p>
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In this week's gospel we read about the Kingdom of heaven as a treasure hidden in a field, in exchange for which a man is prepared to sell everything because of the joy that it brings. The 'Kingdom of heaven' is a biblical expression which means 'What happens when God is really King'. Another way of looking at it is 'growing spiritually or getting closer to God'. What treasure have you obtained when you allowed God to be the centre of your life?

Prayer:

Thank you Lord for our conversion experiences when we met someone we could trust or went on a retreat or spiritual seminar. Up until then we were living scattered lives. Now that we have discovered a pearl of great value we are at peace.

Forgive us Lord for writing off people as if there was nothing good in them instead of letting you be the judge. You are the only one who has the right to judge as you created us all as good people.

Help us Lord to keep our faith in you because as you said "we only need Faith the size of a mustard seed to move mountains". These mountains are often negative thoughts which block the flow of positive energy and beliefs.

