

SCC Small Group Discussion
Plot Twist: The Hidden Treasure – Matthew 13:44

Derived from a sermon on October 5, 2025 by Rick Dietzman – Associate Pastor

Getting Started:

What's the most interesting "hidden treasure" you or someone you know has found at a garage sale or a flea market?

Searching the Scriptures:

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field." Matt. 13:44

1. Presumably, the treasure of the kingdom is different from how we would typically define treasure. What makes it valuable?

2. Earlier in this part of Matthew (13:11-17), Jesus described the kingdom of heaven as "a mystery" that his disciples noticed and experienced, but many others didn't. He said in verse 16 "*blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear.*" What was Jesus offering them (and us) that many had longed for but had not grasped?

3. Have you ever "discovered" something you thought might be valuable, then bought it before the price went up? (a home, stocks, a rare item etc.) How did that purchase make you feel at the time? Did it increase in value like you predicted?

4. As a result of his knowledge and insight, the man in the parable hid what he found and sold everything so he could buy the field. He had to make a highly sacrificial trade of what he knew he had, for an unknown potential treasure. What does this tell us about how we should prioritize our current possessions in light of "greater possessions" in God's kingdom?

Practically, the apostle Paul addressed this same idea in 1 Timothy 6:17-19:

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

5. Describe this “life that is truly life” that Paul asks us to attain to. What’s it like for us to move from hope in uncertain wealth to hope in God? How is generosity an integral part of this worldview change?

Jesus said in Matthew 6:19-21 *“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

6. In the parable, the man had great joy. How has the process of trading earthly treasures for heavenly ones brought you joy and a change of heart?
7. Jesus said in Matthew 6:33, *“seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things (food, clothes, etc.) will be given to you as well.”* God is a trustworthy provider when we put him first. How have you discovered this “mystery” in your own life?

Application of the Scriptures: Read what the apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 3:7-11: *But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.*

What true and lasting treasures in Jesus mentioned here do you appreciate most?

How can you hold the kingdom in its rightful place of value in your family and social circle? What are you selling, trading or losing to gain Christ?