What's the most valuable thing you've ever found unexpectedly?

What the Text Says:

Read Matthew 13:44-46. How are the two parables similar? How are they different?

Understanding:

How does the joy of the men in the parables relate to their willingness to sell everything?

Application:

In what ways might our ambitions be "too small" in light of the Gospel?

How have you experienced the tension between self-sovereignty and God's sovereignty in your life?

Next Steps:

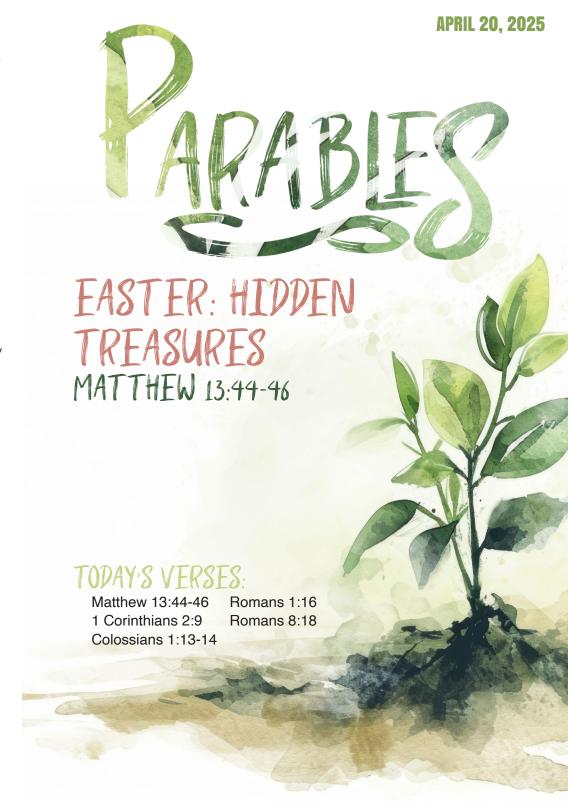
What might "selling everything" look like in your life right now?

Missional Living:

How might our joy in Christ impact those around us who don't know Him?

How can we communicate the value of God's Kingdom to others in our community?

Finally, what did this parable leave you to think about?



EASTER: HIDDEN TREASURES

MATTHEW 13:44-46

As usual, our Easter message will not be a typical Easter message. We are reflecting back to a series we did last year on the Parables of Jesus. Today you will see Jesus use two short parables to illustrate the immense value of the Kingdom of God. In the first, a man discovers a treasure hidden in a field, then joyfully sells everything he has to buy that field. In the second, a merchant finds a pearl of great value and likewise sells all he has to acquire it.

These parables aren't about business ethics, but about the nature of God's Kingdom. They teach us four main points:

1. Our ambitions are too small

The Gospel is more wonderful than we realize, but it will push us to give up our small ambitions for God's glorious plans.

2. Christianity means entering "the Kingdom of God"

It's not just adopting a moral code or philosophy, but a complete change of dimension and essence. We move from self-sovereignty to God's sovereignty.

3. The Gospel requires us to "sell everything"

While we're saved by grace alone, true faith leads us to surrender everything to Christ as our King and Lord.

4. Unconditional surrender leads to unimaginable splendor.

Those who give up everything for Christ do so with joy, anticipating the glory to come.

The parables demonstrates that when we truly grasp the value of God's Kingdom, we will joyfully give up everything else to obtain it (live in it). This isn't about earning salvation, but about our response to God's grace. Our main problem isn't specific sins but our lack of love for Jesus.

