



Sermon Discussion Guide

7/26/2026

Sermon: Kingdom Stories *"The End of the Search"*

Text: **Matthew 13:45-46**

Introduction:

What is something you've searched for that turned out to be worth the effort?

Today we're talking about a much deeper search. Jesus tells a story about a merchant searching for fine pearls, but the parable invites us to ask a bigger question: **What is every human heart really searching for?**

From the Text

Read Matthew 13:45-46 together. Then read Matthew 11:28-30

Discussion:

1. Why do you think Jesus chose a merchant instead of a farmer, or laborer for this parable?
2. Compare this parable with the Hidden Treasure (Matthew 13:44).

What similarities do you notice?

What differences stand out?

Why do you think Jesus told both stories back to back?

What was the merchant really searching for?

What does Jesus offer that nothing else can?

How does the gospel free us from the endless pursuit of proving ourselves?

Digging Deeper

3. Read Isaiah 55:1-3. - *"Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?"*

How does Isaiah's invitation connect with Jesus' parable?

What kinds of things do people "spend themselves" on today that never truly satisfy?

4. Read John 4:13-14.

Jesus tells the Samaritan woman that whoever drinks the water He gives will never thirst again.

How does this conversation help explain the parable of the "pearl"?

What do both passages teach about the deeper thirst of the human heart?

5. Augustine famously wrote, “For *You have* made us for Yourself, and *our hearts are restless until they rest in you.*”

Why do you think people continue searching for fulfillment even after achieving goals they once thought would satisfy them?

Have you ever experienced that personally?

6. The merchant's search ended when he found the pearl.

What does it practically look like for someone today to stop searching and begin resting in Christ?

How is resting in Christ different from simply "trying harder" to be a better Christian?

7. Our culture often tells us to "find yourself." Jesus calls us to "follow Me."

How are those two invitations different, and why does that difference matter?

Reflection:

Spend a few quiet moments reflecting on this question:

Where am I tempted to look for significance, identity, or satisfaction apart from Christ?

Choose one area where you sense God inviting you to trust Him more deeply this week. Then share (if you're comfortable):

What is one practical way you can intentionally "rest in Christ" this week rather than continue striving?

Close in prayer: Read Psalm 62:5-8

Hear again His invitation: *"Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."*

Then thank Jesus that He is the One your heart has been searching for all along. Thank Him that in Him you are fully known, deeply loved, and invited into His rest. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you walk this week with the confidence that your identity is secure in Christ, no longer striving to prove your worth, but resting in the love and grace of the One who has called you His own.