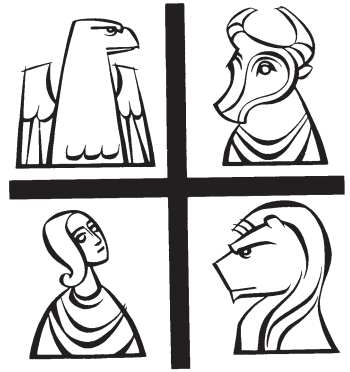


# Reading Matthew in Lent



## Gospel of Matthew 13:44–56

### The Parable of the Hidden Treasure

44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field,  
which a man found and covered up.  
Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

### The Parable of the Pearl of Great Value

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

### The Parable of the Net

47 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea  
and gathered fish of every kind.  
48 When it was full, men drew it ashore  
and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad.  
49 So it will be at the end of the age.  
The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous  
50 and throw them into the fiery furnace.  
In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

### New and Old Treasures

51 “Have you understood all these things?”  
They said to him, “Yes.”  
52 And he said to them,  
“Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven  
is like a master of a house,  
who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

### Jesus Rejected at Nazareth

53 And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there,  
54 and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue,  
so that they were astonished, and said,  
“Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works?  
55 Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not his mother called Mary?  
And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?  
56 And are not all his sisters with us?  
Where then did this man get all these things?”  
57 And they took offence at him.  
But Jesus said to them,  
“A prophet is not without honour except in his hometown and in his own household.”  
58 And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.

## Prayer

God of eternal wisdom,  
you alone impart the gift of right judgement.

Grant us an understanding heart,  
that we may value wisely  
the treasure of your kingdom  
and gladly forgo all lesser gifts  
to possess that kingdom's incomparable joy.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

Amen.

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