

GOSPEL PEARLS

The kingdom of heaven

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Jesus said to his disciples: "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. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate

the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. "Have you understood all these things?" They said to him, "Yes." 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." (Matthew 13: 44-52)

Obtaining the Kingdom of Heaven, that is, of eternal salvation, must be the first priority among our objectives on this earth. Indeed, we have only this life to entrust ourselves to God and be faithful to His commandments. Let us commit ourselves never waste this opportunity by indulging in our lower instincts. Let us, rather, take advantage of our daily opportunities to please God.