

## Thy Kingdom Come: Everything for the Kingdom

### Reflect

1. What is something you have had to save for in order to purchase?
2. Has anything compelled you to make drastic changes in your life? How and why?
3. What do you value most?

### Read Your Bible

1. Philippians 3:8-14
2. Matthew 13:44-46

### Apply God's Word To Your Life

1. Read Matthew 13:44-46. Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to treasure and a pearl – things of great value. In your daily life, what do you seek to possess?
2. In Jesus' parable, the treasure and pearl are not owned by the finder, rather the *finder* becomes possessed by them. Because they have been grasped by the treasure/pearl (the kingdom of God), the finder sells all they have. When have you been grasped by something that you turned your life over to it?
3. What currently consumes you and drives your actions?
4. Read Philippians 3:8-10. St Paul confesses he has been grasped by the Gospel of Jesus Christ and seeks to take hold of what Christ has attained for him. What is gained by Paul by turning his life over to Christ?
5. How can turning your life over to Christ be a positive, rather than a negative and harmful thing?
6. What treasure is promised to us in Christ when He gets a hold of us?
7. What steps can you take this week to leave behind what worldly things possess your heart so Jesus can grab a hold of your heart and life more fully?

### Conclusion

In our consumer culture today, where we are encouraged to possess as many things that we can and so often end up possessing us, it can be hard to hear Jesus'

words about the kingdom of God. It is hard to imagine that the kingdom of heaven is worth giving up everything we have for its sake. Throughout scripture, Jesus' teachings and the witnesses of the apostles, we are reminded that without the kingdom of heaven we already have nothing. Life and all that fills it will come to an end and mean nothing without the promise of forgiveness and eternal life that's in Jesus. Therefore, abandoning oneself to the transforming love of God in Jesus isn't radical, it's the only thing that makes sense. "I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things." (Philippians 3:8)

Pray

Everlasting God, Your kingdom of mercy and love is more valuable than all I possess. Thank You for giving that treasure to us through Your Son, Jesus. By Your Spirit, You grab a hold of us and don't let go. Help us to loosen our hold on the things of this earth so we can more firmly take a hold of You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.