

# Matthew 13:44-46

**Background:** Jesus went and sat down beside the sea. A large crowd gathered around him, and he used parables to teach them about the kingdom of God.

*Read the passage.*

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ Jesus said that the kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field. [13:44]
- ☐ Jesus also said that the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for valuable pearls. [13:45-46]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [13:44] How did Jesus describe the kingdom of heaven in verse 44?  
It is like a treasure hidden in a field.
2. [13:44] What did the man do when he found the treasure hidden in the field?  
The man hid the treasure and sold all his possessions and bought the field.
3. [13:44] Why do you think the man bought the field?  
He probably wanted the treasure that was hidden in the field.
4. [13:45] How did Jesus describe the kingdom of heaven in verse 45?  
The kingdom of heaven is like a man who was a merchant looking for valuable pearls.
5. [13:46] What did the man do when he found a very valuable pearl?  
He went and sold everything that he owned and bought it.
6. [13:44-46] Why do you think the two men in the stories sold everything they possessed?  
It appears that they sold everything so they could get enough money to buy the land and the pearl.
7. [13:44-46] What do you think was Jesus' reason for saying that the kingdom of Heaven is like these things?  
(Answer may vary.) He seems to have meant that the kingdom of Heaven is more important than anything else.

**Comment Section:**

# Romans 9:30-33

**Background:** In this section Paul quoted two passages from the prophet Isaiah.

**Read the passage.**

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in this passage.

- ☐ The Gentiles, who were not pursuing righteousness, attained it by faith. [9:30]
- ☐ Israel, who pursued a law of righteousness by works and not by faith, did not attain it. [9:31-32]
- ☐ Israel stumbled over a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense. [9:33]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions from the specified verses.

1. [9:30] How did the Gentiles, who were not pursuing righteousness, attain it?  
The Gentiles attained it by faith.
2. [9:31] What did the people of Israel pursue?  
They pursued the law in order to become righteous.
3. [9:32] Why did the law not make them righteous?  
The law did not make them righteous because they pursued it by works and not by faith.
4. [9:32] Over what did the Israelites stumble?  
The Israelites stumbled over the stumbling stone.
5. [9:33] When Paul writes about the stone of stumbling and the rock of offense, what do you think he means?  
*(Answer may vary.)* From this verse, it seems clear that Jesus Christ is called the stone of stumbling, because those who believe in Jesus will not be ashamed. (See also Romans 10:9-11.) The rock of offense has a similar meaning. So this would mean that Jesus Christ was seen as an obstacle and an offense to the Israelites who wanted righteousness by works and not by faith.
6. [9:33] What happens to those who believe in the one called the stone of stumbling?  
Those who believe in the one called the stone of stumbling will not be ashamed.

**Comment Section:**