

# REFLECTION

**Presbytery of Riverside**

**September 13, 2018**

The Presbytery of Riverside Discernment Team requests that you pray and reflect on this month's question. As you receive a word from the Holy Spirit, please communicate that to the Discernment Team through the Presbytery Office, [riversidepresbytery.info@riversidepresbytery.com](mailto:riversidepresbytery.info@riversidepresbytery.com).

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; and then in [their] joy [they] went and sold all that [they] had and bought that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, the merchant went and sold all [the merchant] had and bought it.”

-MATTHEW 13.44-45

Hurricanes. Tornadoes. Floods. Wild Fires. Earthquakes. All of these are what are often called “natural disasters.” We in California, as well as other western states, deal with the latter two, other parts of the United States deal with the others. To be prepared for such a natural disaster, we are encouraged to have identified a safe path of exit from danger, a supply of essential goods to help sustain us, and to be prepared to travel (or hunker down) with minimal possessions.

What is in your essential collection of possessions you would choose to carry with you if forced to flee? There was a time in the world—a time still present for some societies—during which everything that one had could be carried in a container of some kind. What amongst your possessions would you consider essential enough to carry with you?

The theme of these two parables (only found in Matthew) is to point out that the Kingdom of Heaven is about knowing what's most important. After this understanding, the acquiring and keeping of what is important—exemplified metaphorically as a pearl of great treasure or a great treasure itself—is what's also important.

The Discernment working group is asking your help to identify what is most important for the Presbytery of Riverside to focus on in its witness to God? What is God calling us to be and to do first and foremost in our life together, as we seek to follow Jesus' commandment/commission to “Love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves?”

Thank you for your witness to the Mission of God in the name of Jesus through the power and passion of the Holy Spirit!

*-Submitted by Timm High, member of the Discernment Team*