

Christ Church Kid's Lesson

Parables about the Kingdom of Heaven Matthew 13:31-33, 44-50



“One day the Pharisees asked Jesus, ‘When will the Kingdom of God come?’ Jesus replied, ‘The Kingdom of God can’t be detected by visible signs. You won’t be able to say, “Here it is!” or “It’s over there!” For the Kingdom of God is already among you.”

In these verses, the Pharisees are asking Jesus about a place and a certain kind of rule they expected. But Jesus surprised them by saying the Kingdom of Heaven won’t be a place that shows up with trumpets and banners and knights in shining armor. He told the Pharisees that the Kingdom of God was already among them. The Kingdom of God, also called the Kingdom of Heaven, is in people who believe in Jesus and follow Him as their King.

Through the parables we are looking at today, we learn that since we belong to the Kingdom of Heaven, we live like citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven. We do this by praying for people who don’t believe in Jesus, and by doing things, even little things, to show we love Jesus our King, and by telling everyone we meet that Jesus is the King.

Matthew 13:31-32



“Here is another illustration Jesus used: ‘The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed planted in a field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of garden plants; it grows into a tree, and birds come and make nests in its branches.’”

There is a lot we can learn from these two simple verses. Let’s focus on one thing in particular: God uses small things to do great work. Think of a mustard seed, or an acorn. These are teeny, tiny seeds, but God makes HUGE plants grow out of them, and these trees then become homes, safe places for birds to live in. The Kingdom of Heaven started off small, with very few people believing in Jesus, but now millions and millions of people all over the world believe in Jesus and have become citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven! You may be young and small, but look at how God can use small things! Even the smallest thing you do for Jesus, He will use to grow big results! All we have to do is to trust Jesus to use the small things we do, to do big things himself.



Matthew 13:33

‘The Kingdom of Heaven is like the yeast a woman used in making bread. Even though she put only a little yeast in three measures of flour, it permeated every part of the dough.’”



In this parable, the flour represents the world and all the people in it, and the yeast represents Christians. What is yeast? Yeast is what is used in bread to make it rise. Yeast makes bread fluffy and delicious. It takes a very small amount of yeast to make bread good. In the parable of the yeast, we learn that even just a few Christians can make a difference in the world. In Matthew chapter 28, Jesus commands us to go out and make disciples of all nations. It is our job to tell everyone, everywhere about Jesus and how much he loves all the people in the world. In this way, we will be like a little bit of yeast, making a whole loaf of bread delicious!

Matthew 13:44

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.”



This short story teaches us some very important lessons. Let's start with the man. It said he discovered a treasure hidden in a field. He wasn't out looking for the Kingdom of Heaven on purpose, he just sort of stumbled across it. I love this parable, because it reminds us that Jesus is calling everyone to himself, even those who aren't looking for him.

Let's look at the first part of the parable again: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field." The treasure in this parable is the Kingdom of Heaven! Heaven is where we get to spend all of forever with Jesus, our King. It is the best treasure we could ever want! When the man discovered the treasure, what did he do next? The parable tells us in the second half of Matthew 13:44. It says, "In his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field." Can you imagine that? Can you think of anything so wonderful in this life that you

would sell EVERYTHING you have to get it? I can list a few things I would like to have, like a new car, a new phone, and a swimming pool in my backyard. Can you think of things you would like? But would you be willing to sell ALL your clothes, ALL your toys, your cars, your food, and even your house to get any of those things? No way! Nothing in this life is worth selling ALL your stuff in exchange for. **But** the Kingdom of Heaven is worth everything we have and then some.

Matthew 13:45-46

“Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant on the lookout for choice pearls. When he discovered a pearl of great value, he sold everything he owned and bought it!”



The first thing to notice here is that this man was on the lookout. Unlike the man in the Parable of the Hidden Treasure, the man in the Parable of the Pearl was looking for Jesus. You are all lucky, blessed to get to come to church every week and learn about Jesus.

Many people don't go to church, and don't know where to go for the answers to some hard questions they may have. Life without Jesus can be very lonely, and people who don't know and follow Him often feel lost, and like something is missing in their lives. When that happens, they often go searching for something to make them feel like they belong, something to fill the emptiness in their lives. People look all over the place for something to fill them up, but there is only one thing that will make us feel like we belong, and that is a relationship with Jesus Christ. The great news is that those who really look for Jesus will find him.

Matthew 13:47-50

“Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a fishing net that was thrown into the water and caught fish of every kind. When the net was full, they dragged it up onto the shore, sat down, and sorted the good fish into crates, but threw the bad ones away. That is the way it will be at the end of the world. The angels will come and separate the wicked people from the righteous, throwing the wicked into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”



This parable is very similar to one we studied last week. Does anyone remember which one? This parable is similar to the Parable of the Wheat and Weeds. In both parables, we learn that at the end of the world, those who follow Jesus will get to go to Heaven and those who don't will not. This message is good news for those who love Jesus, but bad news for those who don't! Part of being a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven is telling everyone about Jesus so they don't get thrown away like the bad fish in the story. That is part of the cost of following Jesus. We show we love Jesus by telling others that Jesus loves them. As citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven, we are willing to give up everything to follow Jesus, and we tell everyone about how much Jesus loves them.