

Hidden Kingdom Part 7 - "Kingdom Curiosity" (3-21-21)

Introduction: Kayaking the Little River (Late Summer/early Fall 2020)

The Sermon on the Mount - (Matt 5-7)

Matthew 6:19-21 (ESV)

(19) Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, (20) but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. (21) For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:22-23 (ESV)

(22) **The eye is the lamp of the body.** So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, (23) but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

Note: Seeing everywhere what I'm looking for - Car Shopping!

***Key Thought: Treasure** - what has your eyes has your heart, and what has your heart defines you. What your eyes treasure directly influences how you see yourself and the world around you!

Matthew 6:24 (ESV)

No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money (mammon).

Note: Jesus is still talking about Treasure, and what we behold has a hold on us - we serve it!

- **Money (Mammon)** - that which is trusted or treasured. The god of riches
- **Context shows the problem** - Leads to anxiety & judging others - see: (Matt 6:25-34 & Matt 7:1-5)

Understanding Mammon . . .

Philippians 3:18-19 (ESV)

(18) For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. (19) Their end is destruction, **their god is their belly**, and they glory in their shame, with **minds set on earthly things**.

Note: Their god is their belly, and that is now their focus! Consider where it leads!

Jesus makes this point crystal clear - Different context, but same message . . .

Luke 11:29-32 (ESV)

(29) When the crowds were increasing, he began to say, "This generation is an evil generation. It seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah. (30) For as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so will the Son of Man be to this generation. (31) The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and **behold, something greater than Solomon is here.** (32) The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and **behold, something greater than Jonah is here.**

Note: Solomon & Jonah - The warning & wisdom of Jesus!

- **Queen of Sheba** - came seeking (great distance & great cost)
- **Nineveh** - listened and repented (changed course)

Luke 11:33-36 (ESV)

(33) “No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a basket, but on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. (34) **Your eye is the lamp of your body.** When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness. (35) Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness. (36) If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, it will be wholly bright, as when a lamp with its rays gives you light.”

Note: Jesus is repeating this theme. Remember - We repeat what we consider important!

It’s not just about “what” you look at, it’s the “way” you view yourself and the world. What lights your way?

Philippians 3:12-21 (ESV)

(12) Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. (13) Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, (14) **I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.** (15) Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. (16) Only let us hold true to what we have attained. (17) Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.

Note: Keep your eyes on the prize. Learn from the example of those who have gone before.

This is our point application this morning!

The Sermon by the Sea - (Mark 4 & Matthew 13)**How to be Kingdom Curious . . .****Matthew 13:34-36 (ESV)**

(34) All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable. (35) This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet: “I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world.” (36) Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.”

Seeing the Hidden Kingdom Jesus came to reveal . . .**Mark 4:1-2 (ESV)**

(1) Again he began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. (2) And he was teaching them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them:

*Parable of the Soils

Mark 4:10-13 (ESV)

(10) And when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables. (11) And he said to them, “To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables, (12) so that “they may indeed see but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand, lest they should turn and be forgiven.” (13) And he said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?”

Note: Do you understand this? How will you understand more? Stay Curious & Seek answers!

*Parable of Soils explained to his disciples

Mark 4:21-25 (ESV)

(21) And he said to them, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket, or under a bed, and not on a stand? (22) For nothing is hidden except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret except to come to light. (23) If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear." (24) And he said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you. (25) For to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away."

Note: He hides things on purpose so they might be found!

- Have you played peek a boo with a child? (I'm bored - they are fascinated!)
- How about Where's Waldo?

Warren Wiersbe - Jesus' Parables: **Picture** (the story), **Mirror** (your heart), **Window** (kingdom around you)

*More Parables - The sower / The mustard seed

Mark 4:33-34 (ESV)

(33) With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. (34) He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

Note: He told stories, and his disciples spent time with him, learning the secret behind the story!

Conclusion

When we treasure Jesus' Kingdom by seeking that Kingdom with great curiosity, then we become rich!

Matthew 13:51-52 (ESV)

(51) "Have you understood all these things?" They said to him, "Yes." (52) 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."