

## WHAT ARE PARABLES?

- A parable is literally something “*cast alongside*” something else. Jesus’ parables were stories that were “*cast alongside*” a truth in order to illustrate that truth. His parables were teaching aids.
- They use a common, culturally relevant story to reveal a moral, spiritual, or Kingdom truth.
- They reveal the heart of Jesus in practical ways to be lived out.

## IN THE NEXT 2 WEEKS: SALVATION PARABLES IN KINGDOM LANGUAGE?

- Salvation and **Kingdom language**: Jesus is Savior and Lord!
  - The Kingdom will be restored one day.
  - The Kingdom is received or accepted.
- It makes sense that we learn about the kingdom from the King!
- **Matthew 4:12-17 (ESV)**

## THE PARABLE THIS WEEK:

**Matthew 13:44-46** *“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.”*

## TRUTHS THAT JESUS WOULD WANT US TO CONSIDER:

- 1. THE PEARL IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN, AND IT HAS COME NEAR.**
  - The Kingdom is salvation from judgement.
  - The Kingdom is to come (*new heaven and new earth*).
  - The Kingdom is now (*spiritual*).
  - Notice one man stumbled upon it and the other was searching for it.
  - None of this was by accident.
- 2. THE PEARL IS OF GREAT VALUE, AND IT COST GOD TO GIVE IT.**
  - The pearl was made available to those that didn’t have it.
  - The pearl given is of great worth.
  - **1 Peter 1:18-19 (ESV).**
- 3. THE FARMER AND THE MERCHANT UNDERSTOOD ITS VALUE.**
  - *With Joy* they sold all that they had.
    - The cost of the pearl/kingdom to both the farmer and the merchant.
    - Notice the farmer and the merchant had different amounts, but still enough—everything they had.
  - Some ask, “*Are you saying I can buy my way into heaven?*” **NO!**
  - These men had to exchange what they valued for something more valuable.
  - These men had to trust in the pearl for their safety and lives in eternity rather than trusting in what they had trusted and valued before.
  - Notice both men had to make a decision—what they had verses the pearl/kingdom.
  - The cost is a willingness to put God in His rightful place. The 10 Commandments starts with “*We shall have no other God’s before Him!*”
  - When He is first, it leads to love for God and others.

## THE PICTURE OF THIS PARABLE IN REAL LIFE: **MARK 10:17-31 ESV**

- The rich young ruler knew Jesus was from God, and yet didn't obey.
- Jesus didn't say the same thing to everyone; Jesus knew His heart.
- Notice the man kept what wasn't enough rather than get what he could never lose.
- Why is it hard for the wealthy to get into heaven?
  - They trust what they can see here and now.
  - They trust what they can control (*what they think they can control*).
  - They trust what most humans on planet earth value instead of what God does.

## OTHER TAKE AWAYS FROM THIS PARABLE:

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## QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS WITH YOUR FAMILY OR FRIENDS:

Passages to consider: **Matthew 13:44-46; Romans 5:8; Galatians 2:20**

1. What from the sermon caught your attention?
2. Read **Matthew 13:44-46**. What is Jesus communicating? **A)** Who is He telling this parable to? Who is listening?
3. What is your understanding of the kingdom of God? **A)** How does that compare to what Jesus is describing?
4. How has encountering Jesus changed what you value? **A)** Where are you in the process of being in relationship with Jesus? (*Talk with someone if you are wanting to commit to follow Jesus.*)
5. Take a moment to consider your life. What is the treasure/pearl that has captured your focus and attention? (*Could something be competing with Jesus and His kingdom?*) **A)** How is that focus impacting how you arrange your life and make choices?
6. After thinking about this parable, what response are you wanting to make to Jesus? **A)** Share the parable Jesus told with someone this week.

Passage to prepare for next week: **Luke 18:9-14**