

### WHAT ARE PARABLES?

A culturally relevant story “cast alongside” a truth in order to illustrate that truth

### WHY PARABLES?

Matthew 13:9 He who has ears, let him hear.

- Everyone has ears, but not everyone is willing or wanting to hear the truth (always been the case!).
- Spiritual truths require spiritual discernment which is only possible by the Spirit and Word. (1 Corinthians 2:12-14)

### CONTEXT

Matthew 13:36-37 <sup>36</sup>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.” <sup>37</sup>He answered...

### TREASURES & PEARLS

Matthew 13:44 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.

Matthew 13:45-46 <sup>45</sup>Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, <sup>46</sup>who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

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### THE KINGDOM

1. \_\_\_\_\_ - the overarching reign of the one and only eternal and sovereign God
2. \_\_\_\_\_ - All who’ve submitted their hearts and lives to the reign of God—*born again* (literally “from above”)
  - Are you in the Kingdom of Heaven? (John 1:12-13, John 3:1-21, Titus 3:3-7)
3. But \_\_\_\_\_ - The future physical reign of Christ in the millennial age

### ...OF HEAVEN

- o Not just here and now
- o Future and forever paradise and perfection
- o Exchanging the world’s \_\_\_\_\_ system for the King’s \_\_\_\_\_ system

### ...IS LIKE A ...

- o Amazing spiritual truths compared to physical realities and understandable experiences

### ...TREASURE OR PEARL OF GREAT VALUE

- o Once in a lifetime find!
- o Implications of life-changing “wealth”!

What are your top 5 things you’ve gained by being “in the kingdom”?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_



### ...WAS FOUND

- o Field - \_\_\_\_\_ across
- o Merchant - intentionally \_\_\_\_\_ for (rich, yet still searching)

### ...SOLD ALL THAT HE HAD AND BOUGHT IT.

- o Sold all
- o Cost all—obtainable, yet costly (to God versus to you\*)
- o Paid all
- o Possessed all
- o Came out on \_\_\_\_\_!!!

\*Salvation, and subsequently our invitation into the Kingdom of Heaven, are “free” to us through Jesus Christ. We don’t purchase salvation or kingdom citizenship. They are a “free” gift of God (charity; grace). We are saved by Jesus alone, nothing else. Our part is surrendering allegiance to God, abandoning ourselves to trusting our Heavenly Father, and learning to walk in our new Kingdom’s ways.

### TREASURE: “...in his joy he goes...”

- “Joy” is used 64 times in the New Testament! (*grace* and *joy* share the say root word: “chairō,” to be full of cheer)
- *Chara* (khar-ah’): cheerfulness; that is calm delight: joy, gladness<sup>1</sup>
- The Kingdom of Heaven is better, satisfying, and compelling—not a horrible sacrifice and existence!

### PEARL:

- Pearls are meant to be \_\_\_\_\_ —making more beautiful
- Pearls are worth \_\_\_\_\_
- The Kingdom of Heaven is \_\_\_\_\_ and worth \_\_\_\_\_ —attractive!!!



True Treasures — Matthew 6:19-21

Seeking [the most important] First — Matthew 6:25-33

Seek & Find — Matthew 7:7-8

**MAIN POINT:** Jesus desires us to know how important the kingdom of heaven is above anything else!!!

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### APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

- Are you in the Kingdom of Heaven here and now?
- What does it look like to live here and now with the Kingdom of Heaven in mind?
- How are you displaying your true pearl?
- How’s your joy with your true treasure?
- How can you help those you’re discipling know and grow in what it means to live for the Kingdom of Heaven?

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

<sup>1</sup>Find the etymology of Hebrew and Greek words used in the Bible in the Concordances at BibleGateway.com!

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