

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

1 Kings 3:5-12

Psalm 119:129-136

When your word is opened, it gives light & understanding. (v30)

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Beloved & sovereign God, through the death & resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice & mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took & sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs & becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come & make nests in its branches.” ³³He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took & mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened. ⁴⁴The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found & hid; then in his joy he goes & sells all that he has & buys that field. ⁴⁵Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went & sold all that he had & bought it. ⁴⁷Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea & caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, & put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out & separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping & gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new & what is old.”

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. How does the *1 Kings* lesson connect with the *Gospel*, consider esp. the “wisdom” displayed in the tasks of *Matthew 13:33-48*? How does it show a model of what Jesus teaches about? *Hint: look for themes, parallel ideas, inversions, reversals, similarities, extensions, metaphors, actions, vocabulary, grammar, etc.*
2. What does *Philippians 2:5-11* add to *vv44-46*? How could the baptized Body of Christ be a treasure or pearl? See *Psalm 8:4-8, 103:1-5; Matthew 6:25-33, 10:31; John 3:16-17; Romans 5:6-11; Revelation 21:2; Small Catechism: Creed, article 2, available bookofconcord.org*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. A sharp criticism between “traditional” & “contemporary” congregations is the accusation that one only cares about what is old & the other only about what is new (*cf. v52*)! How are you & your congregation actually guilty of the appropriate charge, of being stuck in its ways to the exclusion of other Christians & pre-Christians? It should be easy to list 15 or more.
4. What concrete things could the “other side” actually teach your congregation & enrich its ministry & mission in its neighborhood? Try to match- or exceed- your list in #3.

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Notice in *vv47-48* the gospel net brings in “all kinds” of fish at once. How (or when) does your congregation bring in a large crowd of non-members to hear the Word? What opportunities are you missing to help fill the congregation’s net? See *Matthew 4:19; Acts 2:1-47; 4:29-35; 5:12-16; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23*
6. God’s kingdom comes to us when we believe his word & live godly lives; how can you explain the value of this to someone in world that seems only concerned with immediate, socio-political ends? See *SC: Lord’s Prayer*

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Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Series: Whose Kingdom Is It?

07.30.23
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Kingdom's Treasures

The King knows what's worth it, & he's not afraid to spend for it

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: On finding one pearl of great value, [the merchant] went & sold all that he had & bought it. (v46)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Many will come from east & west & will eat in the kingdom of heaven.
(*Matthew 8:11*)

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