Four Pictures of the Kingdom – Matt 13

   a. The Jewish conception of the kingdom
      i. Throw off Roman oppression
      ii. A descendant of David sitting on the throne in Jerusalem
      iii. All the nations coming and bowing at their feet
   b. Jesus needed to share the truth with them in a way they could understand
   c. So he shared parables describing features of the kingdom
      i. We will look at four of these in this lesson

II. Main Thought: Jesus compared the kingdom to a mustard seed, leaven, a hidden treasure and a pearl merchant

III. The Kingdom as a Mustard Seed (Mt 13:31-32)
   a. Seems insignificant
      i. A tiny seed
   b. But becomes great
      i. Taller than other garden plants
      ii. Provides shelter
   c. In order to have its intended effect it must be
      i. Planted
      ii. Nourished

IV. The Kingdom as Leaven (Mt. 13:33)
   a. Invisible
      i. A microscopic organism
      ii. You can only know it is there because of its effects
   b. But has obvious visible effects
      i. throughout all human society
      ii. in an individual’s life
   c. In order to have its intended effect it must be
      i. Mixed in
      ii. Let the word of God and the kingdom have its effect on us
      iii. Then let your changed life have its effect on the world in which you live
   d. Both these parables speak of the kingdom as a living and active force and focus on its effects on the world around it
   e. The next two parables speak of a the kingdom as a non-living thing and focus on the reaction of others to it

V. The Kingdom as a hidden treasure (Mt. 13:44)
   a. Hidden
   b. But has infinite value
      i. For those who find it
      ii. Joy
      iii. Worth the loss of all other things
         1. A picture of repentance
         2. Unlike the Rich young ruler (Mark 10:21-22)
         3. Like Saul of Tarsus
4. What is sold is different in each case
5. But the goal is the same, to gain Christ and be found in Him

VI. The kingdom as a costly pearl (Mt. 13:45-46)
a. Hard to obtain
   i. In this case, it was not hidden, but the price tag was very high
   ii. In the previous parable the one who found it was not looking for it, in this one he is
      1. Two kinds of people
      2. Some stumble upon the truth and receive it with joy
      3. Others hold the seeking of what is the good and best as their highest goal, and find the kingdom in that way
         a. Couple from CA who moved to TX to find the right church
         b. Paul who counted everything else loss to have Christ
   b. But worth it
      i. The merchant HAD TO HAVE IT
      ii. It was worth more than all his other possessions
   c. Is the kingdom the pearl or the merchant?
      i. The pearl – teaches a nearly identical lesson to the previous parable
      ii. The merchant – the kingdom is made up of those who value something above all other things – Jesus Christ

VII. Identifying the kingdom
    a. Mark 9:1 – It was coming with power, soon
    b. Acts 1:1-8 – The power would come with the Holy Spirit
    d. The Sermon –
       i. 2:22-24 – Jesus was from God, you crucified Him and God raised Him
       ii. 2:32-33 – After He ascended He sent the power with the Holy Spirit
       iii. 2:34-36 – This proves He is the anointed King and is reigning now
       iv. If the king is reigning now, has the kingdom come? YES
       v. 2:37-41 – The response

VIII. CONCLUSION
    a. Questions
       i. Is the kingdom of God growing in your life?
       ii. Is the kingdom of God mixed in every part of your life so it can have its intended effect?
       iii. Are you have the effect God intends on the world around you?
       iv. Have you found the kingdom of God?
       v. What is it worth to you?
vi. Have you sacrificed anything to obtain it? What are you willing to sacrifice for it?

vii. Are you part of the kingdom that is seeking Jesus and His will above all things?

b. INVITATION