

Four Pictures of the Kingdom – Matt 13

- I. Introduction – What is the kingdom of God like? (Luke 13:18-21)
 - 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
 - c. Acts 2:1-4 – The Holy Spirit came with power => SO DID THE KINGDOM
 - 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