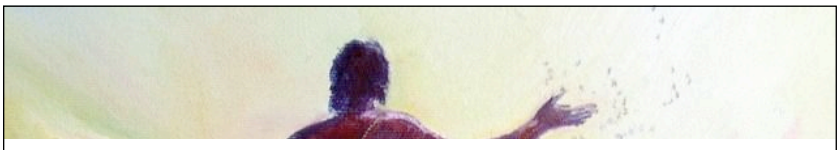
Sermon Notes

Then:

Always:

Now:



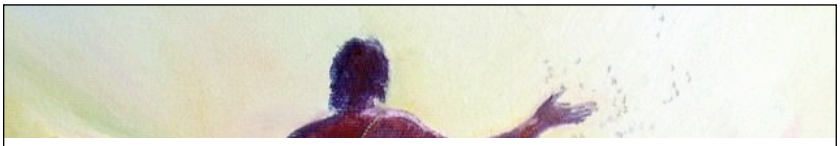
Matthew 13:44-45

"The kingdom of the heavens 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 the heavens 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."

The Hidden Treasure (Matt13:44)

"The kingdom of the heavens 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."

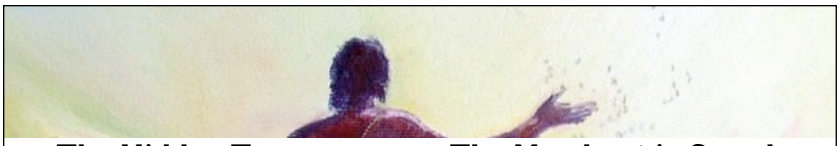


The Merchant in Search of Fine Pearls (Matt 13:45)

"Again, the kingdom of the heavens 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."

The Hidden Treasure and the Merchant

- Both compare the kingdom of the heavens to items of **surpassing value**
- In both, the main character **discovers** the valuable items
- In both, the main character takes **deliberate, intentional, life-altering, life-restructuring action** to acquire the items of value
- In both, the main character experiences **joy**



The Hidden Treasure

- true value of the purchase unknown to anyone else
- purchaser paid just a fraction of the field's value

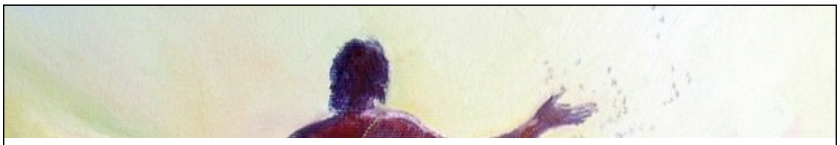
The Merchant in Search...

- true value of the purchase known to all
- purchaser paid fair market value

The Hidden Treasure and the Merchant

Operation of the kingdom of the heavens here on earth

1. The kingdom of the heavens is an item of surpassing value
2. It's value is objective, not subjective
3. Some will be oblivious to the objective value of the kingdom, even though it is right in front of them
4. Others will "discover" the value of the kingdom of the heavens and take intentional, life-restructuring action to own it
5. Whatever has to be traded away to "acquire" the kingdom of the heavens is in line with its true surpassing value



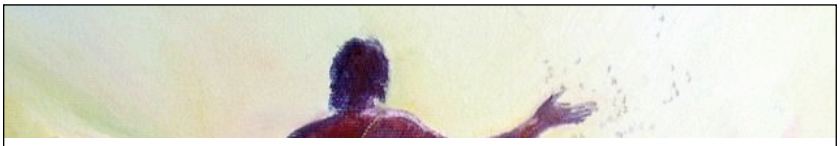
The Hidden Treasure and the Merchant

Operation of the kingdom of the heavens here on earth

Become intentional about...

- Discovering the true value of the kingdom of the heavens
- Using earthly resources to invest in kingdom treasures

BONUS SLIDES



What is a Parable?

Analogy or illustration

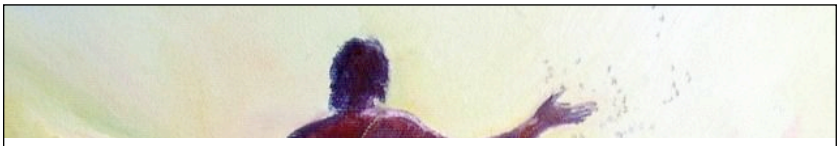
A story or occurrence in nature that illustrates some reality in the operation of the kingdom of the heavens here on earth.

"Secrets" = Mysteries

truths about **the operation of the kingdom of the heavens** here on earth not fully explained or fully understood from the Old Testament

Purposes of the Parables

1. To communicate truths about the operation of the kingdom of the heavens here on earth not fully explained or fully understood previously
2. To serve as a gracious provision for those who received Jesus
3. To stand as judgment on the evil generation that rejected Jesus



Two Sides

1. The division of humankind into two sides: the side of the promised seed of the woman vs. the side of the serpent
2. The promises of life and blessing for the one vs. the promise of judgment, cursing, and death for the other
3. "Receiving" Jesus makes the difference

Jesus used parables **to bless those who received him** with understanding of the secrets of the kingdom of the heavens and **to judge or curse those who rejected him** with continuing ignorance and blindness.

Judgment

"This why I speak to **them** in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear."

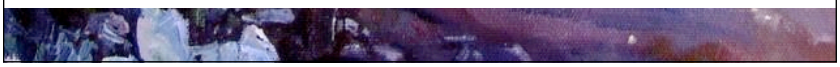
"Indeed, in their case, the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: 'You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive.'"

Matthew 13:13-14

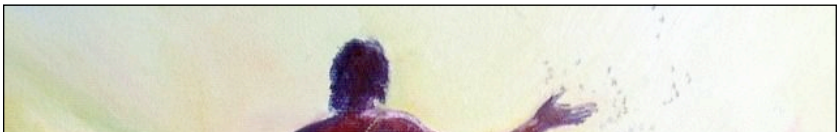
Blessing

"But blessed are **your** eyes, for they see, and **your** ears, for they hear. For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it."

Matthew 13:16-17



Jesus uses the parable of the weeds to communicate that he is very much aware of the weeds in the field of the world and that he will do something about them in due time at the close of the age.

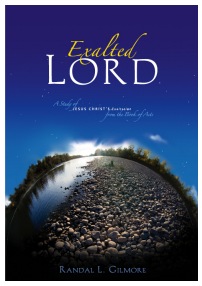


Applications from The Wheat and the Weeds

1. There is still time to change to the side of the promised Deliverer before the harvest at the close of the age
2. In the meantime, let the reality of Christ's victory over evil encourage and embolden you to endure evil when you must and to stand up to evil when you are able using spiritual weapons and the overcoming-power of Christ' exaltation, which He shares with us

Satan's Primary Methods (Genesis 3)

- deception
- lying
- unbelief
- rebellion against God
- disobedience to God
- death



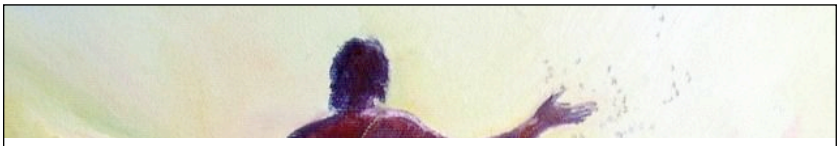
"In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

John 16:33

Every encounter with evil is a reminder of the coming harvest at the close of the age and of the presently available power and resources of the kingdom of the heavens, enabling us to prevail or to endure.

The Four Soils

Jesus reveals **how the kingdom of the heavens operates** with regard to people either receiving or rejecting word of its penetration into this world.



Condition of the heart

a **closed** heart - the evil one

a **shallow** heart - testing and persecution

a **fearful** heart - the cares of the world

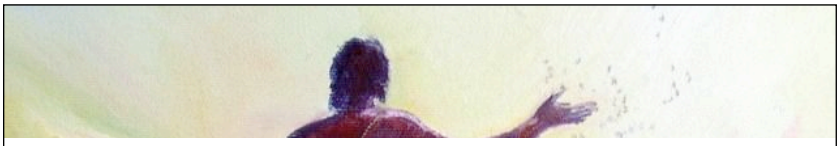
a **misdirected** heart - the deceitfulness of riches

If you are already a believer, you are NOT finished with the parable of the four soils.

1. Be on the lookout for opposition from the evil one, for testing and persecution, for the cares of this life, and for the deceitfulness of riches
2. Keep your heart open to understand the operation of the kingdom of the heavens
3. Let word of the kingdom of the heavens penetrate deep into your heart
4. Overcome your fear by seeking first the kingdom of God

The Mustard Seed and Leaven

Together these parables teach us something about **the growth and influence** of the kingdom of the heavens in spite of the best efforts of the evil one to derail and defeat it.



The Effects of the Kingdom

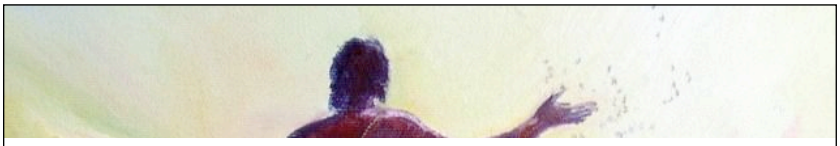
Just as it is surprising to see so great a tree coming from such a small seed, so the amount of **shade** and **shelter** provided for all by the tree of the kingdom of the heavens will also be **more than could be imagined**.

Matthew 13:31-32

The **smallness** of the kingdom's beginning in contrast to the **greatness** of what is becomes would have been astonishing.

Matthew 13:33

The goal of the kingdom of the heavens operating in **the world overall** is **total impact** and **total transformation**.



Both Parables Considered Together

Even though there are "two leavens" at work in the world for now, **the "leaven" of the kingdom of the heavens is the one that prevails in the end and that brings lasting transformation**.

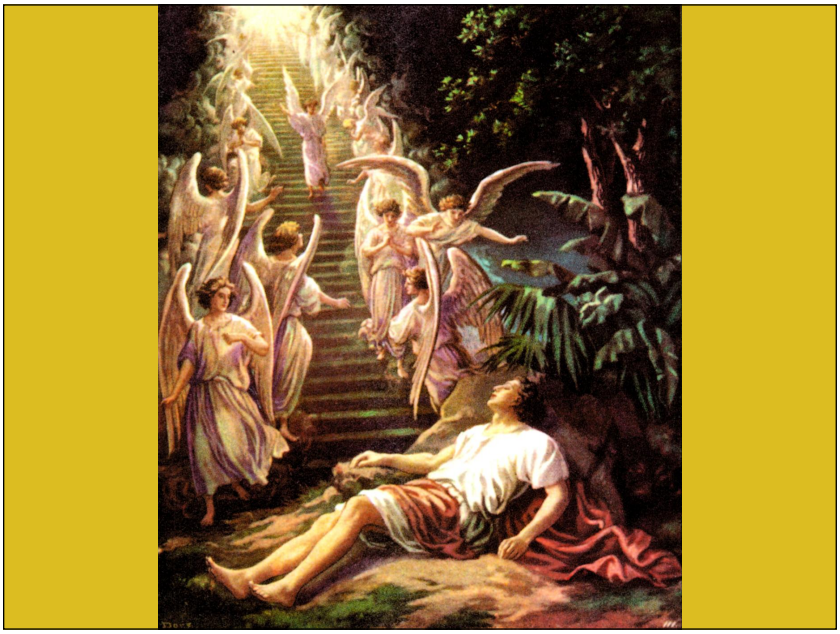
Character of its beginning and other kingdom lessons and principles for living

"So the last will be first, and the first last" (Matt 20:16)

"For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted" (Luke 18:14b)

Not only are these laws that govern the kingdom of the heavens, they also are laws that **model** and **showcase the way it develops here on earth**.

Matthew 17:20

The results brought about by the kingdom of the heavens **go far beyond** what might be otherwise expected from such a small beginning.

In the operation of the kingdom of the heavens here on earth, **mountains are moved even with measly amounts of faith.**