

## **Digging Deeper**

Do you know what a parable is?

It's a little story Jesus told that teaches us about the Kingdom of God. Parables teach us about life as a Christian.

So what are these parables teaching us? Well let's dig a little deeper and check it out.

### 1. God talks to ordinary people like you and me

Imagine being there in the first century. You've heard Jesus's teaching. You've seen his miracles. You know the Old Testament scriptures. You're convinced he's been sent by God, and you're ready for him to take over the world! But, you've just heard his parables, and it doesn't sound like it's going to be spectacular and wow! In fact it sounds like it's going to take a long time.

Then, Jesus speaks and tells you that the kingdom IS coming, and, in fact, it's already here - as soon as you meet Jesus, you're in it. And it's as good as you always hoped. No, it's better. Far better. It's like a treasure in a field that you suddenly found. It's like a pearl of great value that you never knew existed.

It might feel like God's kingdom is growing really slowly, but God's working in ways we would never think of. He's using the ordinary to do the extraordinary. He's leading people to the treasure and placing pearls of great value all over the world. And people are finding it.

Don't believe me? Check out the ordinary in these parables:

- It happened in a Field. Fields were a super ordinary part of life for people back then.
- Burying pearls or treasure was ordinary. You see in Jesus's day, no one put their money in a bank. If they needed to keep it safe, they would bury it in the ground. (Do you remember the parable of the talents when the man was so scared of losing it, he buried it until his Master came back -Matthew 25:25?)

- Keeping the pearl or treasure when you find it, was also ordinary for back them. According to Jewish law whatever you find outside someone's house is yours—finders keepers.

You see it was in the middle of ordinary life that God showed these people something EXTRAORDINARY- himself. And he wants to talk to us in our ordinary life too!

## 2. Knowing God is the BEST THING EVER

Well the second thing we can learn from these parables is that knowing God is the best thing ever. The pearl or the treasure in these parables obviously represents Jesus or being a part of God's kingdom. Jesus is telling us here that the most valuable thing we could ever have is a relationship with God. To be a part of his kingdom

These guys were willing to sell everything they had to get into the kingdom. BUT they didn't have to.

IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT to know that Jesus isn't saying we have to give up stuff to get into God's kingdom. We could never do enough good stuff to earn our way into heaven. Jesus paid for us to get in with his life.

He's saying that being in God's kingdom is so amazing that we HAVE TO HAVE IT. WE MUST HAVE IT! Like a delicious Ice-cream Sundae you just desperately want to get into your belly. You want it soooo much.

Can you think of the thing you want more than anything in the world? The thing that you think would make you the happiest? Well knowing Jesus is BETTER than that!

Check out this verse to hear Paul say the same sort of thing- Philippians 3:7-9. When you really know Jesus, you'd do anything to stay close to him!

## 3. Don't miss out on God's Kingdom

Did you notice in the story that nobody seemed to realise how valuable the pearl or treasure was until someone found it? How many people walked past that field and never knew the treasure was there? Surely the owner of the land didn't know it was there either, or he wouldn't have sold it!

Well that's the third thing to learn from these parables. Lots of people hear about Jesus, but just walk past and ignore him. The big message is this- **DON'T IGNORE JESUS**. If you ask me it's a good idea to make sure you're not walking past the greatest treasure ever!