

GRACEPOINT CHURCH

Weekly Devotional

Once upon a Kingdom: The Stories Jesus Told

Lent 2

**The Incomparable Value of the Kingdom of Heaven – Linda Magengenene-Moyake –
1.3.2026**

Scripture

Matthew 13:44-46

Open your mind and heart as you read the passage of Scripture aloud and then again quietly to yourself. Listen for God's word to you.

Spend some time in worship.

Observation

In the first parable the field represents the world. Rabbinic law stated that a man who found a treasure in a field and dug it out would not own the treasure for it would belong to the owner of the field. The man in the parable takes care not to break this law, but buys the field, and, only once he owns it does he lay claim to the treasure.

The only Man who is able to give all He has is Jesus, for no human being could pay such a cost. This parable differs from the ones that go before it. It tells of how highly the King values the people in His kingdom. The treasure, symbolizing the individual believer, is so wonderful that Jesus gave everything to redeem the world and save those who believe within it. The rarity of a person finding a treasure by chance in a field is so great that the event emphasises the importance of each believer to Jesus.

The next parable about a man finding a pearl of great price tells the same story. The pearl that is so valuable is the individual believer; Jesus is the buyer who would give everything He has to secure this treasure. A pearl was one of the most beautiful things known to the people of the day, illustrating that the Kingdom of Heaven is the loveliest thing in the world. The individual believer is more valuable than anything else to Jesus.

THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

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Icebreaker:

What is the most precious gift you have ever received? Do you think its value would be as great to anyone else? Why is it so precious to you?

Application

- What does the Kingdom of Heaven mean to you? How would you describe it to someone who didn't know about it in simple modern-day language, so they understand how you feel about it?
- *The Kingdom of Heaven is supremely valuable:* In these two parables, one man found the treasure; the other looked for something of value and found the pearl. How did you discover the Kingdom of Heaven? What is its value to you? Jesus said that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand; what did you have to give up to enter the Kingdom of Heaven? Why were you willing to make any change required?
- *The Kingdom of Heaven calls for a decisive response of faith and surrender:* What is your response to the Kingdom of Heaven? How do you express its presence in your life? If you are not sure, what can you do as an expression of its presence? Do others know the importance of the Kingdom of Heaven in your life? Do they know about your faith in Jesus Christ? Have you spoken about it to them? Why/why not?
- *Because of the Kingdom's values we are free to surrender joyfully:* Is it a joy for you to follow Jesus? Why/why not? Are you aware of joy on a day-to-day basis? What does it mean to you? How can you share it with others?
- How can the group help you with the struggles you have mentioned during this session?

Prayer

Pray for one another in regard to the issues that have been raised during your discussion time, and in regard to other needs of the group.



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Service

Are you prepared to take these 40 days of Lent. seriously incorporating spending extra time with God; fasting, praying and giving in ways that you do not usually give? How can you make this year's preparation for Easter special in some way for someone who does not understand the significance of it?

Bibliography

<https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/matthew-13/>



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