

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

<sup>31</sup> HE told them another parable: The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. <sup>32</sup> Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that birds of the air come and perch in its branches.

<sup>33</sup> HE told them still another parable: “The Kingdom of Heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough.”

<sup>44</sup> “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

<sup>45</sup> “Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. <sup>46</sup> When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup> “Once again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. <sup>48</sup> When it was full, the fisherman pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. <sup>49</sup> This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous <sup>50</sup> and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>51</sup> “Have you understood all these things?” JESUS asked.

“Yes,” they replied.

<sup>52</sup> HE said to them, “Therefore every teacher of the law who has been instructed about the Kingdom of Heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.”

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost  
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

St. Andrew Lutheran Church  
July 30, 2023

GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS

FIVE PARABLES

THE BAD NEWS

THE GOOD NEWS

Memory Verse: Matthew 13:44

*“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.”*

## QUESTIONS FOR STUDY

### Getting Started

- 1) What was your attitude/mind-set when you entered worship this week? What was it when you left worship? What most contributed to that change?
- 2) What insight, principle or observation from this week's message did you find most helpful, eye opening, or troubling? Explain.

### Into the Bible

- 3) Read I Kings 3:5-12. For what was it that Solomon asked GOD? What about this pleased GOD? Why was this a good request for Solomon as the new King of Israel? What does GOD promise upon granting this request?
- 4) Read Romans 8:26-39. How does the HOLY SPIRIT help us in our prayers? What has GOD done and promises to do for those who believe? What proof does Paul give of GOD faithfulness? How does Paul show the breadth of GOD love?

- 5) Read Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52. Based on these parables, how would you describe the Kingdom of Heaven? What is JESUS' overall message in these stories? Who are the "good fish" in the Parable of the Net? Who are the bad fish?

### Application to Life

- 6) What do you believe about the possibility of some people spending eternity apart from GOD? What do JESUS' words in the Parable of the Net (vv. 47-50) tell you? What would you say to those who believe that all are going to heaven?
- 7) How is the Kingdom of Heaven like something very small that becomes very big? How is that description like your faith? In what ways has GOD made your faith bigger? What are you doing to keep it growing?
- 8) What makes the Kingdom of Heaven like a precious treasure? What is the real cost to have this treasure? What have you given up to have that treasure?
- 9) What do you sense GOD is saying to you based on this study?