



Weds 27 May

Rummaging in the Week for God

A midweek bible study from Northwest Anglican



This midweek bible study is designed to help you 'rummage' in the week for God. Much like a drawer of random bits and pieces, so we will rummage to find God in our week, knowing that the drawer always reveals something useful, something treasured and more often than not, something unexpected.

Opening Prayer

God we come before you a people who are searching.
Some are searching for peace, some joy, some love and some security.
In you and you only our search is rewarded and satisfied.
You are the God of all goodness and mercy, we search for you, we find you.
May our discoveries be in your name as we worship you now. Amen.

Song

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.
Your mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning,
new every morning:
great is your faithfulness, O Lord,
great is your faithfulness!

Scripture

Matthew 13: 44-46

Reflection: Bees

Parables are ways of taking a potentially complex teaching or a lesson that will be difficult to embody, and explaining them with illustrations and examples from everyday life. More than a metaphor, a parable takes a concept and creates a story where the truth of that concept is revealed and explained. The parable of the hidden treasure and the parable of the pearl sit next to each other in the book of Matthew. They are part of a collection of parables that Jesus uses to teach the disciples about the kingdom of God. Amongst the parables is some discourse between Jesus and the disciples about what they mean. The parable we have just read is about hidden treasure and a pearl of great value. It is a parable that is challenging us to consider and understand the incalculable value of the kingdom of heaven. A person walks by a field, a field was valuable, it could be used for agriculture or grazing. It in itself was valuable. The person buys the field on discovering a great treasure buried in the field. Suddenly the value of the field is incalculable, as a treasure has been discovered within it.

If you are in need of support (prayer or otherwise) please contact us:
Rev. Learnie 021 984 002 or office@northwestanglican.org.nz



CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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An expert pearl merchant discovers a pearl of greater value than any seen before. No other pearl is more valuable than this one they have found. The man who found the treasure in the field and the merchant who finds the pearl, realise that they have found something of more value than anything else and they sell all that they have to buy this one treasure. We all have treasures. Perhaps they are special keepsakes from parents or grandparents that help us to retain special memories. Perhaps they are items that are valuable, that we hold on to in case we ever need them for financial reasons. Are we willing to sell them, and all that we have for the treasure of knowing and belonging to God's kingdom? I wonder if faith in God has become easy for us, we are not persecuted for it in a great measure in New Zealand. It may have become comfortable for us to follow God. In some ways we perhaps are able to keep our own treasures as well as the treasure of the Kingdom. In this parable Jesus is challenging us to realise that the treasure, the pearl, is worth more than anything, and that any sacrifice we make for it will never compare to the value of God's kingdom. Let us not lose sight of this value, and become complacent in our faith, rather that we have been graciously gifted the most valuable treasure the world will ever know.

Questions for Reflection

- Consider what are the most valuable things in your life (material and non-material) - what makes each of them valuable to you?
- Do you think of your faith as valuable? Unpack how your relationship with God is valuable to you.
- Jesus is challenging the disciples to consider the value of God's kingdom—what would challenge you to realise its value in a way that impacts your walk with God?

Song



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u9VL7AhXBKY>

The Blessing
Bethel Worship & We the Kingdom

Closing Prayer

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself,
and God our Father,
who loved us and graciously gave us
unfailing encouragement and good hope,
comfort our hearts
and establish them
in every good word and deed.
Amen.



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