

I will take biblical parables for 600

Mustard seeds

Pearls

Yeast

Little children

****Ding ding****

What are things that are small and often overlooked

There are 6 very short parables included in today's gospel. My introduction was a tiny way to try to connect them. I will end each thought with a question for you to ponder.

For the past 3 weeks we have heard some of Jesus' parables. We heard About the seeds scattered along the trail, and the type of soil they fell on. Last week we heard about weeds and wheat. As is God's plan **THEY GROW TOGETHER** – until the harvest - so that we can not and we are not supposed to tell them apart, because judging is not our job. **JUDGING IS NOT OUR JOB**. Just like universal precautions – we are to act as if: as if everyone is **A BELOVED CHILD OF GOD, and HEIR TO THE KIN DOM** because after all, everyone is.

Mustard seeds – you know how small they are, right? In biblical days mustard were considered weeds. They only grew into scraggly bushes, and they were

invasive. NOBODY wanted mustard weeds growing in their crops. They grew so that it became intermixed with everything tangling in “real” crops roots. This mustard it is growing amongst. Starting small and soon growing and spreading. And yet Jesus compared the little mustard seed (small and unwanted) growing into a bush that is big enough for birds to rest in Big enough to receive shade from. Hmm the kin-dom of god – starting small and growing invasively so to be seen and felt amongst all the other plants in the garden – (all the other people in ROME) growing so much that it takes over everything and is even used for shelter... Have you witnessed that growth?? Have you been part of it??

Yeast – now the yeast that we use today is different from what was used back in Jesus day. It was not sold in handy little premeasured packets - throughout scripture – both old and new testaments. Leavening was equated with evil in fact in order to make yeast, bread needed to rot first... that little piece rotting bread in this story was combined with how much flour? Scripture says it was 3 measures - that doesn't seem like much, does it? Well 3 measures which equals about 80 pounds of flour. This little bit of yeast - something that many do not want - growing into enough to feed a banquet!!! Small and unnoticed – growing exponentially – although not visible to the human eye – its growth is certainly

noticed – even if not understood... until it grows into something so big that it by itself -this invisible power is cause for a celebration ... and enough to feed hundreds... maybe even thousands... If you have listened to me talk about evidence based practices – you might recall that we become like the people that we associate with – leavening was equated to that – just a small amount makes the entire batch – leaven – good or bad – that little bit of yeast touches the entire batch. Jesus says He is the BREAD of LIFE – so if that is the batch of bread that we are associated with...think of the good that grows within us – sometimes invisibly and envelops us and makes us grow. Do you have some of that “Bread of Life” within you? What kind of leaven are you?

A treasure found on a piece of land that means so much to a person that he sells everything to purchase the land upon which it rests. We don't hear what the treasure is...it is something so personal that it clearly spoke to that person – so much that he was willing to SELL EVERYTHING to live there....hmmm have we ever heard that In order to follow Jesus, that you need to be willing to give up everything. Have you seen a glimpse of that land????do you know where YOUR treasure lies???? What are you willing to give to go there?

A hidden pearl so beautiful that a man sells all that his other pearls just to buy that pearl. A pearl starts as what??? A small piece of dirt, it serves as an irritation to that poor mollusk that does everything in its power to surround it and make it less of an irritation - once done, it becomes a thing of beauty. If you were to be a pearl – where are you along that continuum of pearl making...are you still that irritant? Are you becoming more round and shiny. Did you know that if pearls are not out and about – not worn, but stored someplace they lose their value and their luster...I recall something somewhere about not storing your treasures....right??? Perfect pearls are very rare – we can probably expect that we will always be somewhat less than perfect, until the end of times, but right now...are you taking your pearl out and “sharing it”? Are you showing people the beauty of being formed in Christ? People often think that they have to be perfect before they share of themselves – before they use their gifts, and I am here to say that if you wait for perfection, before you start sharing your gifts then, my friend you will likely not share what you have to offer. NONE OF US ARE PERFECT – is there something you can do to help people want to become like you? Like a Christian?? Is there some irritant in your life that has caused you to become a

pearl? Are you willing to share that? You could be the person to offer hope to another.

Then Jesus tells them another parable about catching fish – good and bad...good kept and bad are thrown back. This is the same message that we heard last week.

Remember – the angels will come in and take the tares (weeds – bad fish) and toss them into the fire. That means we still have a chance – a chance to grow – to become less weedy – less fishy– to be filled with spirit – to use the power of our foibles to become whole, to share our treasures – to believe in the treasures that lie ahead of us.

Now lets go back to the opening of this sermon – why did I include little children into the answer. Because children are often overlooked. We forget that Jesus tells us to become like the little children, there are dozens of places in scripture that talk about the importance of little children that we must become like them in order to enter the kin gom...that if anyone come between this little child and Him...beware...

Children see with pure eyes they feel with pure hearts. Let us become small and overlooked and begin to start and take a risk. Let us act with pure hearts. Let us

be willing to risk to learn and grow. Let us be willing to fall and get back up knowing that we will be picked up in Jesus loving arms, because we are Beloved Children.