

WOODLANDS CHURCH

May 19th: Parables



Discussion notes: The Kingdom

During the three years of Jesus' preaching ministry, he seemed to have a holy obsession with the Kingdom of God. He only mentions *Church* twice, but talks about the *Kingdom* over 100 times. He is so desperate for his disciple to understand what the kingdom is all about that in the 40 days between his resurrection and ascension, we are told in Act 1v3, what he chose to teach them about was "the Kingdom of God". The rule and reign of God's kingdom in our world is such an amazing thing that Jesus frequently used parables to help people fully understand all the wonderful attributes of the Kingdom and reorientate their lives around kingdom priorities. We are going to look at a few of Jesus' kingdom parables tonight.

1. How would you define "the Kingdom of God"?

Read Matthew 13v31-34, 44-45,

2. What does the parable of the **mustard seed** tell you about the Kingdom?

3. How have you experienced the Kingdom working quietly and constantly in your life like **yeast** in dough?

4. The kingdom is like **treasure**. What should our response be when we find the kingdom? How do you react when told that you should give up everything to get the treasure of the Kingdom?

5. The kingdom is like a **merchant**. In what way is king Jesus like the merchant? If Jesus is prepared to give up everything to get us, his precious pearl, how should we respond to that kind of kingdom sacrifice?

Read Matthew 20v1-16

6. What does this kingdom parable of the workers and the **vineyard owner** tell you about the nature of the Kingdom? How should this affect the way we judge/treat others?

Read Matthew 22v1-14

7. The kingdom is like a **wedding banquet** to which we are all invited. What is the main thing that strikes you from this parable, that helps you to understand the Kingdom of God better?