



BEHOLD THE KING

MATTHEW

VIDEO

When you expect one thing and get another,
we call it irony.

“Irony, in short, is not merely a subject for writers or cultural commentators; it is a key part of the Christian understanding of life.”

Os Guinness

Dining with the Devil

The Kingdom of God is where
what **God** wants gets **done**.

“Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

Matthew 6:10

PARABLES IN MATTHEW 13

"The kingdom of heaven is like . . ."

1. The Sower	1-9	Jesus talks to the crowds
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1. The **hidden treasure**

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up.

“Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.” (44)

1. The hidden treasure

It's a treasure.

1. The hidden treasure

It's a treasure.

It's hidden.

“Something of tremendous worth can be present and yet not known to others who may have frequently traversed the same field.

“Similarly, the kingdom can be present and yet not perceived, because its present form does not overwhelm the world or overcome resistance to it.”

Donald Hagner

1. The hidden treasure

2. The **pearl**

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.” (45-46)

2. The pearl

The kingdom is more valuable than anything else.

2. The pearl

The kingdom is more valuable than anything else.

The kingdom is small, easily overlooked.

1. The hidden treasure
2. The pearl
3. The **net**

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind.

“When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad.

“So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous

“and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” (47-50)

3. The net

Although the valuable fish aren't hidden in this parable, they are not obvious until they are sorted.

“His flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.”

2 Kings 5:14b

“Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts.”

Zechariah 4:6

“Blessed are the poor in spirit

Blessed are those who mourn

Blessed are the meek, ...

“those who hunger and thirst for
righteousness, ...
the merciful, ...

“the pure in heart, ...
the peacemakers, ...
persecuted....”

Matthew 5:3-12

“The gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many.

“The gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”

Matthew 7:13-14

“Whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

Matthew 16:25

“Whoever humbles himself like this child is
the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 18:4

“Whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave.”

Matthew 20:26-27

“Not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

“But God chose what is foolish in the world
to shame the wise; . . .

“what is weak . . . to shame the strong; . . .
what is low and despised . . .

“even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are.”

1 Corinthians 1:26–28

“But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.”

2 Corinthians 4:7

“For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities.

“For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

2 Corinthians 12:10

The Kingdom of God is ...
weak, but **strong**

The Kingdom of God is ...
weak, but **strong**
small, but **large**

The Kingdom of God is ...
weak, but **strong**
small, but **large**
lost, but **found**

hidden, but **valuable**

hidden, but **valuable**

old, but **new**

hidden, but **valuable**

old, but **new**

priceless, yet **not for sale**

hidden, but **valuable**

old, but **new**

priceless, yet **not for sale**

already, but **not yet**

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Os Guinness

Dining with the Devil

Why we need this sense of irony:

1. We are **easily distracted**... and can end up missing the hidden treasures of the Kingdom of God.

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,

“I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.”

Matthew 25:35-36

“Then the righteous will answer him, saying,
‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed
you, or thirsty and give you drink?

“And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’

“And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’”

Matthew 25:37-40

2. We need to see the importance of small things because **we are small.**

The irony of the Kingdom is made of two truths that appear to contradict each other.

The Kingdom is **more important** than anything else.

The Kingdom is **more important** than anything else.

The Kingdom doesn't always look more important than everything else.

What God wants is the **most important** thing for us.

What God wants is the **most important** thing for us.

But what God wants may not look so important to us.

So what should we expect in the Kingdom of God?

Expect the **long game**, not immediate results.

“In just a little while, the wicked will be no more; though you look carefully at his place, he will not be there.”

Psalms 37:10

Expect the long game.

Expect **humility**.

“As [we] do not know the way the spirit comes to the bones in the womb of a woman with child, so [we] do not know the work of God who makes everything.”

Ecclesiastes 11:5

Expect the long game.

Expect humility.

Expect **a mess**.

“... danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers.”

2 Corinthians 11:26

Expect **more.**

“I want to highlight one thought that I’ve kept with me for the last few years, since I worked at Woodlands Camp in 2012.

“I remember it was the first week of Junior camp, and the speaker talked about how God is always doing something more than we can see.

“I don’t remember the text or really anything else about the sermon, but I just remember that one phrase—God is always doing something more.

“God is always doing something more even when we don’t understand the circumstances in our lives.

“He is doing something more when we feel stale, unusable, and tired.

“He is even doing something more when we choose our own way instead of His.

“Despite what we feel or what we can see,
He is doing something more. He sees the big
picture, and He is ordering it according to His
perfect plan.”

Molly Kaminski

Expect more.

Expect **surprises**.

“Sometimes a light surprises
God’s children when they sing;
It is the Lord who rises
With healing in his wings;

“When comforts are declining,
He grants the soul again
A season of clear shining
To cheer it after rain.”

William Cowper

Expect more.

Expect surprises.

Expect **death**.

“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.”

John 12:24

“He had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.”

Isaiah 53:2b

“He was despised and rejected by men, a
man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.”

Isaiah 53:3a

“Like a lamb that is led to the slaughter . . .
although he had done no violence, and there
was no deceit in his mouth.”

Isaiah 53:7, 9

“Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see
and be satisfied;

“by his knowledge shall the righteous one,
my servant, make many to be accounted
righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.”

Isaiah 53:11