

SUMMER STORIES

The Parables of Jesus



Summer Stories: The Parables of Jesus | The Treasure & the Pearl

“One man’s trash is another man’s treasure.” While the worth of any object is subjective, we know the value of anything is determined by who made it, how it’s made, and what someone is willing to pay for it. This is true when it comes to things like purses, knives, and baseball cards. It is also an important reality to understand about how God sees humanity. While on the outside our lives may not look like much, the image of God in each of us means we are highly valued by him.

Discussion Questions:

1. Share an experience of changing your view about an idea or behavior you thought was right.
 - a. How does someone remain a person of conviction while also remaining open to new information or areas needing correction?
2. **Read Matthew 13:44-46.** What are your initial impressions of these verses?
 - a. Compare and contrast these two parables. Why do you think Jesus told them together?
 - b. Identify some of the connection points to the other parables in **Matthew 13**.
 - c. What other parables outside of this chapter also possess the “man-field-object of attention” structure?
 - d. How have you found this format helpful for understanding aspects of the Kingdom of heaven/God?
3. What do you think is special about you? Compare this to what others you know may say is special about you.
 - a. In what ways does the Creation story help to answer this question?
 - b. Consider other sources people look at to find value. Why are they helpful? How do they create confusion or harm?
 - c. Where have you looked to find personal value through the years?
4. **Read Genesis 1:26-2:7, Psalm 139:1-18, & Ephesians 2:10.** What jumps out at you such as an insight, idea, or message God might want you to recognize?
5. *“The value of something is determined by who made it, how it’s made, and what someone is willing to pay for it.”* The idea is true of commodities, but what about humanity?
 - a. What are the implications if “humanity is the pinnacle of God’s creation?”
 - b. What step do you need to take to become the “treasure” God created you to be?
6. What’s your biggest takeaway from the parables of the mustard seed and leaven?