

Sermons at All Saints Anglican Church, Luxembourg

Preached by Rev Geoff Read at Church on the Lawn, Sunday 24th August 2025

Bible text: Matthew 13:44-45

We keep a pair of binoculars in our car. You never know when you might want to see things clearer – a bird, detail on a building,

Do you have a pair of binoculars or a telescope or a magnifying glass now, or maybe you did in the past – what sort of things do/did you use it for?

It is important to look through the right end otherwise what happens?

Hearing the parables or stories Jesus told is a bit like looking through a telescope – they are meant to bring our awareness and experience of God and His Kingdom closer to us

But sometimes the opposite can happen – and He feels far away

I wonder why?

Most times when Jesus told parables He said “the Kingdom of heaven is like ...”

God’s Kingdom isn’t a place, it’s not heaven

It’s what we pray for in the Lord’s Prayer – your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven

It’s God’s way of seeing and doing things, His love and truth and goodness coming close to us and our world and to transform all that it touches – people, situations, needs

The Kingdom of God is not a place, it is God’s love in action

So what about these two parables that both begin, “the Kingdom of heaven is like ... ?”

How do you hear them? Do they bring God and His Kingdom closer or further away

What is important in this story is **Who acts** and **What they find** and then **What they do**

In the first one the **Who** is someone working in a field who by accident discovers something

What they find is treasure

What they do is hide it, sell all they have and buy the field so it becomes theirs

In the second one the **Who** is an expert very intentionally looking for something

What? – fine pearls

When he finds one of great value **he does** the same thing – sells all to own it

Do these parables make God feel closer or further away? Let me show you what I mean

They are so short that we are going to hear them again twice as we look through the different ends of the telescope

The first time lets take the **Who** as you and me – people who gather around Jesus and want to do the right thing, the Kingdom thing

You are the one digging in the field, the merchant

READ Matthew 13:44-45

What is the treasure, the pearl?

What is your response, what does this parable ask of you?



Some people say that if the parable is about the Kingdom, then the star of the story ought to be the King

What happens when the **Who**, the person in the field, the merchant is Jesus?

READ Matthew 13:44-45

What is the treasure, the pearl?

Who gives all to own them?

What is your response, what does this parable ask of you?

This summer we are on a Treasure Hunt – these yellow threads remind us to be looking out for all that God is doing in His world and in us, that He is on a treasure hunt!

Have you still got yours? What sort of places has it been? What have you seen?

How does it feel to know yourself His treasure!

How does it feel to see others like that too?

Later in our Service we are going to act out these parables of the kingdom with Jesus as the main figure – in HC we remember His love that seeks us out, that gives all on the cross in such a costly way to gain us, and who rises again to free us to be His treasure