

**Kingdom Expectations Series – Part 1:
Kingdom Pictures – Matt.13:31-35, 44-52**

0.0 Introduction

- 0.1 Beginning a short series on God’s Kingdom amidst American election year
- 0.2 Not a new idea – consider Augustine’s *City of God* (354-430)
- 0.3 Jesus talked more about the Kingdom than about love, forgiveness or truth!

1.0 Kingdom as Metaphor

- 1.1 Various terms (incl. ‘of God/heaven/angels’), same entity
- 1.2 Metaphor is tool to express complex idea
- 1.3 Metaphors rely on two things: familiarity + ability to extract & apply feature(s)
- 1.5 English a notoriously metaphoric language

2.0 Metaphors for the Metaphoric Kingdom

- 2.1 Kingdom: domain of region + power in authoritarian leader
- 2.2 Wellbeing of kingdom connected to quality of monarch (just? kind?)
- 2.3 Prevailing idea: *Rex Lex* (‘king is law’)
- 2.4 Kingdoms require maintenance & stability, so people can live securely and well
- 2.5 Kingdom metaphor was central theme of Jesus’ ministry

3.0 Pause to Reflect – *on power of pictures/images to shape your life*

4.0 Metaphors in Matt.13

- 4.1 Parables are metaphors, often in story form (sometimes maxims)
- 4.2 Parable of four soils (13:1-23) = _____
- 4.3 Parable of landowner with mixed crop/weed (13:24-30, 36-43) = _____
- 4.4 Parables of mustard seed & leaven (13:31-33) = _____
- 4.5 Parables of hidden treasure, finding pearls, dragnet (13:44-50) = _____

4.0 Importance of This for Us Today

- 4.1 “Got ears?” (Matt.13:9,15,43)
- 4.2 What does the Kingdom of God look like in your imagination?

*Next week (Sept.27) – Kingdom Expectations – Part 2
God & Kingdom in the Old Testament – I Sam.8:1-22; Ps.5:1-7; Ps.24:1-10*

Matthew 13:31-35 (NASB)

The Mustard Seed

³¹ He presented another parable to them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field; ³² and this is smaller than all *other* seeds, but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that THE BIRDS OF THE AIR come and NEST IN ITS BRANCHES.”

The Leaven

³³ He spoke another parable to them, “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three pecks of flour until it was all leavened.”

³⁴ All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables, and He did not speak to them without a parable. ³⁵ *This was* to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

“I WILL OPEN MY MOUTH IN PARABLES;
I WILL UTTER THINGS HIDDEN SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD.”

Matthew 13:44-52 (NASB)

Hidden Treasure

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid *again*; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

A Costly Pearl

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, ⁴⁶ and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

A Dragnet

⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea, and gathering *fish* of every kind; ⁴⁸ and when it was filled, they drew it up on the beach; and they sat down and gathered the good *fish* into containers, but the bad they threw away. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come forth and take out the wicked from among the righteous, ⁵⁰ and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all these things?” They *said to Him, “Yes.” ⁵² And Jesus said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a head of a household, who brings out of his treasure things new and old.”