

TO HELP US STUDY

1. The kingdom of heaven is compared to a _____.
2. The mustard seed is the _____ of all seeds, yet when it grows, it becomes the _____ of the garden plants and becomes a _____.
3. The kingdom of heaven is like _____ that a woman took and mixed with a _____ amount of _____ until it worked all through the _____.
4. “The kingdom of heaven is like a _____ hidden in a _____.” (v. 44)
5. What did the man do when he found the treasure? _____
6. Was this man looking for the treasure? _____
7. “The kingdom of heaven is like a _____ looking for fine _____. When he found one of great _____, he went away and _____ everything he had and _____ it.”
8. Was this man looking for the pearl? _____
9. How much is the kingdom of heaven worth? _____

TO HELP US REMEMBER: Young Ones—Matt. 13:44
Older Ones—Matt. 13:44-46

TO CHALLENGE TEEN THOUGHT

These four parables are somewhat unusual in that Jesus did not provide an explanation of their meaning. Does this mean that multiple interpretations are valid? Can you find commentaries that draw different lessons from the parable of yeast (for example)?

TIPS FOR TEACHING PARENTS

When Jesus taught these parables, he was using illustrations that the people were familiar with from their earliest years. We can teach the same lessons with the same items today. Bake two small loaves of bread with your children; make one with yeast and one without – make sure that the children see which is which. Explain that if the kingdom of God is in us, it will help us to be full and complete, like the bread that grew with the yeast. Find a small pearl (imitation is OK) and explain how valuable the pearl is by comparing it to something like candy or toys. Explain that the pearl is very small, but it is worth more than a dozen pieces of candy, just like the kingdom of heaven is worth more than all of the toys in the house and the house itself.

FOR ADULT STUDY: Mark 4:30; Luke 13:19-21; Matthew 17:20; 16:6; 24:14; 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Revelation 14:6; 1 Timothy 2:9.