

Thoughts for the 7th Sunday of Trinity 2020

Gospel Reading: Matthew ch 13, vv 31 – 32, 41 – 52

In this week's gospel, we have four very short parables. The first is about a mustard plant. It grows from a small seed to a huge shrub. At least, the mustard seed Jesus was speaking about did. The ones with which we are familiar are tiny round black seeds that grow into tall yellow flowered plants. They are more likely to be called Rapeseed these



days, but they are still members of the cabbage family, and used apart from feeding cattle, to make mustard.

And if our plants do not grow big enough to shelter birds in their branches, they could probably house a dormouse or two.



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So the parable tells one of nature's miracles. And if God is the plant, he provides a place for us to shelter in his branches.

The next three parables are very short too, and the first two are about deciding what is important in life, then going the right way about getting it.

The first one, about treasure buried in a field, reminded me of some of the stories we hear about metal detectorists digging up treasures that only their metal detectors can find. But in Jesus's story, a man actually found some treasure, then went and hid it in a field that did not belong to him. Having done that, he then trades in everything he has and buys the field, so he now owns the treasure. I am not sure, but that sounds a bit like sharp practice to me! But perhaps I do not



understand Jewish laws about owning land.

Then Jesus tells us of the merchant who found a pearl he really coveted. The finest he had ever seen! He really wants it. So he sells all his other belongings so that he can own the finest one he has ever come across.

Are these telling us that God goes out of his way for us? We are the treasure, or the pearl, and he gave everything for us when he gave us his Son who died and rose again for our sins.



And then we come full circle to the place of weeping and gnashing of teeth! This time, people are related to fish, some good and some bad, which are sorted out after being caught, and the bad ones thrown into the fire.

The instruction comes at the end of the chapter:

51 'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' 52 And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

Jesus tells his disciples, and therefore tells us too, that everyone who has been trained to work in and for God's Kingdom must be able to find the best in people, the old treasure and the new.

Let us all try to be the best we can be to help with the bringing in of that Kingdom.

Amen