

## PENTECOST 8

### FIVE PARABLES

#### MATTHEW 13:31-33, 44-52

JULY 26, 2020

Five parables, all at one time. This is like having a five course meal. Jesus even tells us what we can do with them if we understand them. Do we understand?

Parable one – the mustard seed. It goes from the smallest to the greatest.

Parable two – Leaven. Leaven can give life a new quality. It changes what we are. It gives a new identity.

Parable three – Treasure. It is in a field. It's worth buying the field to get it.

Parable four – Pearl. It has great value. It is worth giving all that you have.

Parable five – the Net. It catches good and bad fish. You need to sort it out. The angels will come and sort it out.

Do we understand?

In these five parables there is the hiddenness of God (Jesus calls it the Kingdom of Heaven.) At first, it doesn't seem like much, but it grows on you. Soon you realize that a belief in God gives you an understanding of the world, of creation, and of the Spirit. It grows and then brings extra benefits., such as love, hope, faith, joy and peace. It becomes a part of your life. It becomes the way you value things and people and the world. You experience the changes in your life and you realize that the hidden God is with and under these changes and comes to you through them.

The experiences of life can be good and bad. We can be good and bad. God uses the good and the bad to pull and tug and change and transform us.

Two experiences are happening to all of us in America right now. We are confronted by a virus that wants to eat us alive. We are confronted by a racism which we can carry silently without really knowing how bad it is.

What do we do with a God who comes to us now and pulls and tugs and changes and transforms? We are like fish in the net. We are good and we are bad. We can be good food for the world. We can be smelly and toxic for the world.

The angels of God come to us and for us. What will the angels of God find in you? Can we now be purged of the bad?

If we understand what God is doing to us and in us, can we go to the world, bring out the treasure we have received from God, give newness to the world, give creativity and imagination to the world, give science and healing to the world, and give insights and relationships that give equality and justice and love and hope to all.

Jesus asks us "Do you understand?"

Prayer: Help us to understand, Lord, that you are a silent God who works inside of us to change and transform ourselves and our world. Amen.