

“TAKE 10”- Worship While Away! (Sunday, July 26, 2020)

Share:

God meets us in our greatest need and satisfies us with divine presence and provision. In gratitude, let us worship the Lord our God.

Read these words from a hymn today:

What Is the World Like

*What is the world like when God's will is done?
Mustard seeds grow more than we can conceive:
roots thread the soil; branches reach for the sun.
This is how God moves us each to believe.*

*What is the world like when God's will is done?
Witness the wondering child coming home;
watch as the parent breaks into a run.
This is how God longs for us when we roam.*

*These are the stories that Jesus imparts,
Filled with the Spirit who joins us as one.
Born through our voices, our hands, and our hearts,
this is a new world where God's will is done.*

Read this scripture from worship:

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52, *The Message*

³¹⁻³² Another story. “God’s kingdom is like a pine nut that a farmer plants. It is quite small as seeds go, but in the course of years it grows into a huge pine tree, and eagles build nests in it.”

³³ Another story. “God’s kingdom is like yeast that a woman works into the dough for dozens of loaves of barley bread—and waits while the dough rises.”

⁴⁴ “God’s kingdom is like a treasure hidden in a field for years and then accidentally found by a trespasser. The finder is ecstatic—what a find!—and proceeds to sell everything he owns to raise money and buy that field.

⁴⁵⁻⁴⁶ “Or, God’s kingdom is like a jewel merchant on the hunt for excellent pearls. Finding one that is flawless, he immediately sells everything and buys it.

⁴⁷⁻⁵⁰ “Or, God’s kingdom is like a fishnet cast into the sea, catching all kinds of fish. When it is full, it is hauled onto the beach. The good fish are picked out and put in a tub; those unfit to eat are thrown away. That’s how it will be when the curtain comes down on history. The angels will come and cull the bad fish and throw them in the garbage. There will be a lot of desperate complaining, but it won’t do any good.”

⁵¹ Jesus asked, "Are you starting to get a handle on all this?"

They answered, "Yes."

⁵² He said, "Then you see how every student well-trained in God's kingdom is like the owner of a general store who can put his hands on anything you need, old or new, exactly when you need it."

Talk together, responding to these questions:

- Have you ever been on a treasure hunt? What was it like? What did you discover?
- Why do you think Jesus shares these different parables?
- What are some lessons from these parables?
- What is the treasure you desire? What is your most "beautiful pearl?"
- How can we be "students well-trained in God's kingdom?"
- What is the world like when God's will is done?

Pray together:

God, you have given us a dream of your world made whole, a heavenly realm that is near in heart and close at hand, and it is ours to choose each day. May our smallest acts of courtesy, when transformed by your love, grow abundantly into a realm of flourishing for all. Open our minds and hearts by the presence of your Holy Spirit, that we may seek and receive the greatest treasure, that the mystery of your heavenly realm is made evident here on earth. Through Christ, the Great Teacher, our Lord and our Savior. Amen.

Bless one another:

Take each person's hand and say. "God's grace is for you, God's love is upon you, God's call is within you. Be kind to yourself and others this week as a child of God."

Resources Used: *Disciplines, A Book of Daily Devotions*
Feasting on the Word, Worship Companion
Glory to God, The Presbyterian Hymnal
The Message, by Rev. Eugene Peterson