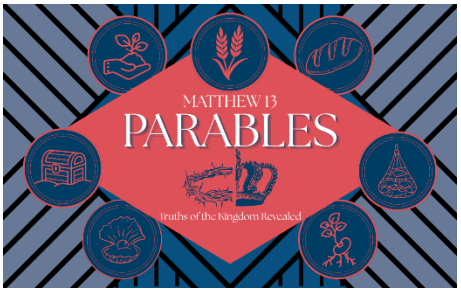

Sermon Notes: "The Kingdom Easily Overlooked"
Matthew 13:31-33
8.9.26

BIG IDEA

You can overlook the Kingdom by missing it — or by minimizing it.

THE SEED:

- The Kingdom of Heaven always starts smaller than we think it should.

- The size at the beginning tells you nothing about the purpose in the end.

THE YEAST:

- The Kingdom of Heaven doesn't just add to your life; it transforms all of it.
    - Which means the most important work God is doing in you right now may be work you can't see yet.

So What?

How is the Kingdom of Heaven at work in your outward life?

How is the Kingdom of Heaven at work in your inward life?

For Study, Reflection, Discussion During the Week:

Life Group ICEBREAKER: The sermon opened with two ways of missing the wildflowers: minimizing them ('not worth stopping for') or missing them entirely because your eyes were always up the trail. Which one is more honestly you when it comes to the Kingdom of God — keeping it in a compartment, or never really stopping to look at what Jesus is actually offering?
REVIEW: Review the sermon notes from Sunday. Was there a particular point that stuck with you? What was it and why did it resonate with you?

READ: Matthew 13:31-32 | Galatians 6:9
• Darin pointed out that when Jesus said "tree... birds... branches," every head in that Jewish crowd came up — because they knew that image from Ezekiel and Daniel. It always meant a great empire, a cedar on the mountain, visible from a hundred miles away. And Jesus hands them a mustard bush in somebody's backyard. That was the whole point. They were expecting the Kingdom to arrive visibly, politically, unmistakably. And what they got was a rural rabbi, twelve fishermen, and a borrowed boat. Where in your own life have you been waiting for the Kingdom to show up in a bigger, more obvious form — and missed what it was actually doing right in front of you?
• The sermon said small is not the same as stalled — a seed in the ground looks identical to a seed doing nothing. Galatians 6:9 says don't get tired of doing good, because at the right time you will reap if you don't give up. Where in your life right now are you most tempted to read "nothing is happening" as "nothing will happen"? Is there a place — a relationship, a prayer, a faithful habit — where you've been faithfully planting but can't see any sprouts yet? What would it take to keep planting anyway?

READ: Matthew 13:34-35
• The sermon named someone — a parent, a grandparent, a neighbor, a friend — whose faithfulness is the shade you're sitting in right now. Someone who planted seeds in you before you were ready, who showed you love before you'd earned it, who pointed you toward the gospel and let you rest in their branches for a while. Who is that person for you? Have you ever told them what that faithfulness produced? And is there someone in your life right now who is resting in your branches — maybe without either of you fully realizing it?

DEPLOY:
• ***Name the Small Thing****. The sermon said: wherever you are this morning — sitting in someone's shade, becoming someone's shade, or just now feeling the first stir of something small and hidden — don't overlook it. Name it. This week, identify one small thing in your life that you've been dismissing as nothing — a quiet pull, a slow change, a faithful habit with no visible return — and write it down. Bring it to God specifically and say: "I think this might be You. I'm not talking myself out of it anymore." Share it with someone in your group.*

Don't Forget:

- Today after service, we're having a spontaneous fellowship. Stick around to connect with your church family!
- Consider signing up for the Disciple Shift Life Group leader training. There is a sign-up sheet on the welcome desk!
- Sign up to help at Church At The Lake on September 6th. We're looking for greeters and people to help serve food. Sign-ups are on the Welcome Desk.

Prayer:
Father, we confess we've walked past the wildflowers — not because we were against them, we just always had somewhere more important to be. Forgive us for minimizing the Kingdom, keeping it in a compartment, never slowing down enough to see what You were doing right in front of us. Tonight, we slow down. Show us where the seed is still in the ground doing what seeds do. Show us where the yeast is working in the parts of us we'd given up on. Slow is not stopped. Hidden is not absent. Small is not insignificant. You began this work, You are continuing it, and You will finish it. For the ones tired of planting with nothing to show — give them grace to keep going. For the ones sitting in someone's shade who never named it — let them feel that gift tonight. And for anyone feeling the first small stir of something — don't let them talk themselves out of it. That's You. Help us to not make small what You are making large
In Jesus' name, Amen.