



our series

# Following Jesus



**The Kingdom  
of God**

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# “The Kingdom of God” ... a phrase Jesus used a lot

Kingdom of Heaven



*What's it like?*

?



*When's it coming?*

*and ... what is it?*



# KINGDOM PARABLES

# Parables of the Kingdom

from Matthew 13

## Mustard Seed and the Yeast

*(31) He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.'*

*He told them still another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about thirty kilograms of flour until it worked all through the dough.'*

*Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet:*

## Treasure and Pearls

*(44) 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.*

*'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it*





# Parables of the Kingdom

- What is a Parable?
- People lived in this “world of parables” – harder for us
  1. Use our own God given imagination for stories
  2. Rather than  
“the KoG is like ....”  
Think:  
“This is what it’s like with the KoG .....”
- Confused? - let’s try it!



***This is what it's like...***



***... The accidental discovery  
The indescribable joy of  
stumbling on something  
precious ...***



***... with the Kingdom of God!***

***This is what it's like...***



***Immense change ... empowering ... disrupting ... transforming ...***

***... with the Kingdom of God!***

***This is what it's like...***



***Something dead coming to life, growing mightily .... unstopably  
... and enabling new life***

***... with the Kingdom of God!***

***This is what it's like...***

***Something that  
means his whole  
life has a purpose ...***



***... with the Kingdom of God!***

*This is what it's like ... with the Kingdom of God!*



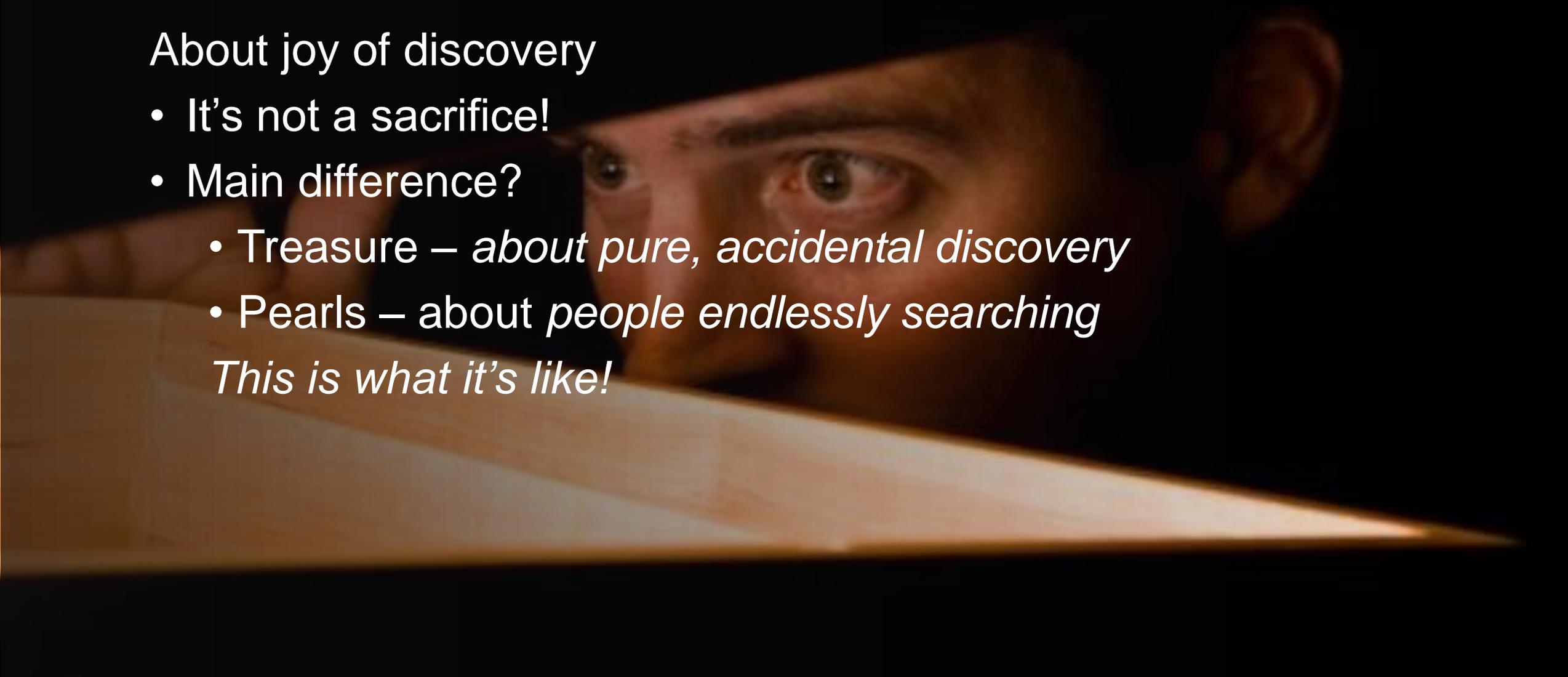
*Or we can be ... “ever hearing but never understanding  
ever seeing but never perceiving” Matthew 13.14*

Those parables again ...

# Treasures & Pearls

About joy of discovery

- It's not a sacrifice!
  - Main difference?
    - Treasure – *about pure, accidental discovery*
    - Pearls – *about people endlessly searching*
- This is what it's like!*





Those parables again ...

## Seeds & Yeast

Little is great when God is at work

- Kingdom work produces disproportionate consequences
- A single Christian – one prayer
- Main difference?
  - A seed *represents growth*
  - But yeast does not grow ....  
*somehow it transforms*
  - *Extensive growth V intensive transformation*

*.. This is what it's like!*

## Weeds and Nets

- Darnel. V similar to wheat until the ears form, but poisonous
- Act of revenge was called out under Roman law
- Roots become entangled

### Meaning?

- Evil will remain around us ...
- ... at the same time as God's kingdom continues
- Sometimes we won't know the difference
- God's kingdom does will bring division
- ... Urgency, at hand, immediacy ... and patience

# Can we define this Kingdom of God?

**No easy definition but ...**

***The Kingdom of God is any place or any person under God's authority. Any place or any person where Jesus reigns.***

***Your life ? Your home ?***

**And in Heaven therefore ....**

***As disciples, we need more than head knowledge***



***What's it like?***



***When's it coming?***

*Jesus didn't come to bring the end - but the beginning of the end*

# THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

they went to the ro  
they were staying, I  
James, and Andrew  
tholomew and Si

**The early apostle made a surprising discovery**

**So is the Kingdom of God Now? – Yes!**

**..... But it's also Not Yet!**



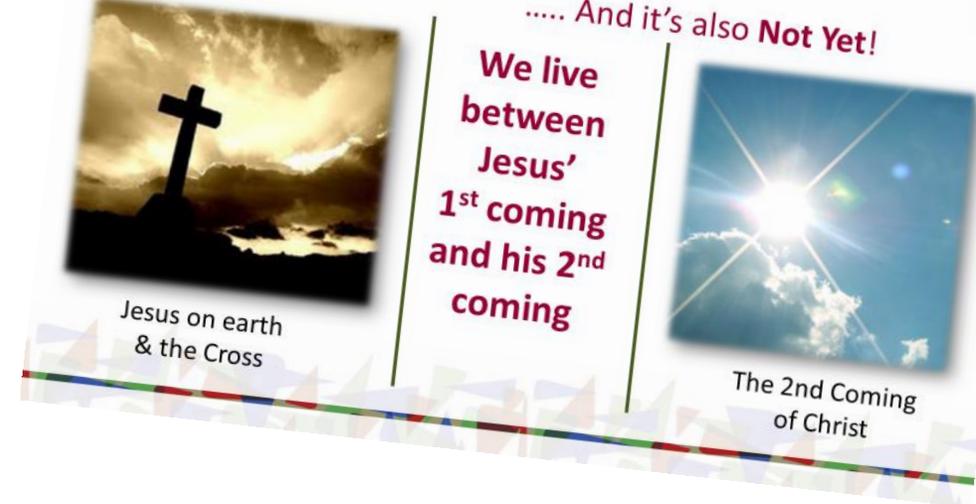
Jesus on earth  
& the Cross

**We live  
between  
Jesus'  
1<sup>st</sup> coming  
and his 2<sup>nd</sup>  
coming**



The 2nd Coming  
of Christ

# God's Kingdom is NOW and it's also NOT YET



- Reflected in the parables we just read: 4 + 2
- **NOW** .... We see God's future breaking into our present
- **NOT YET** – we know how this story ends  
..... but it 'aint over yet
- Living in the overlap of the ages  
... this is what it's like with the KoG!

# Living between the times

- We can experience the KoG **NOW** but a part of this is ... later (**NOT YET**)
  - Blessings and battles are a feature of this
    - Spirit V Evil
    - Victory over death –V dying
    - Full forgiveness V perfection
- “Your Kingdom Come”



# Living between the times

- We often focus on the “Not Yet” part and forget about the “Now” part
- We reduce evangelism down to “Jesus the ticket to heaven”
- But the NOW part is what being a disciple means ...
- It’s what we are told to get on with ... now!
- *“We believe in life before death!”  
..... do you?*



*People catching sight of the Kingdom  
as “treasure”*

## *To finish*

The Kingdom parables  
tell us its effects

- *There is joy in discovering*
- Don't think twice about trading in
- Little is great when God is at work

**NOW**– we are to be kingdom  
news to all around us





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