

The Kingdom of Heaven Poster

Here is a wonderful composite picture of the kingdom of heaven parables from Matthew chapter 13. It is designed a little bit like a medieval fresco, where several stories were often depicted together. Because many people could not read, artistic considerations like perspective were not as important as showing as much as possible from the Word. We too can learn a lot through pictures, which help to solidify stories in our memories. This picture shows seven different parables. Look at the picture while you read or retell the parables. Then see if you can identify the different stories about the kingdom of heaven just by looking at the picture. How much of each parable can you remember?

Note: To accommodate little children, ask them if they can find the man with the pearl, etc. and then read or retell the parable depending on its complexity.

"The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened" (Matthew 13:33). (middle right of picture)

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches" (Matthew 13:31-32). (upper right of picture)

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field" (Matthew 13:44). (upper left of picture)

"The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it" (Matthew 13:45). (middle left of picture)

"The kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away" (Matthew 13:47-48). (center of picture)

Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest" (Matthew 13:24-30). (lower middle of picture)

"The kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old" (Matthew 13:52). (upper middle of picture)