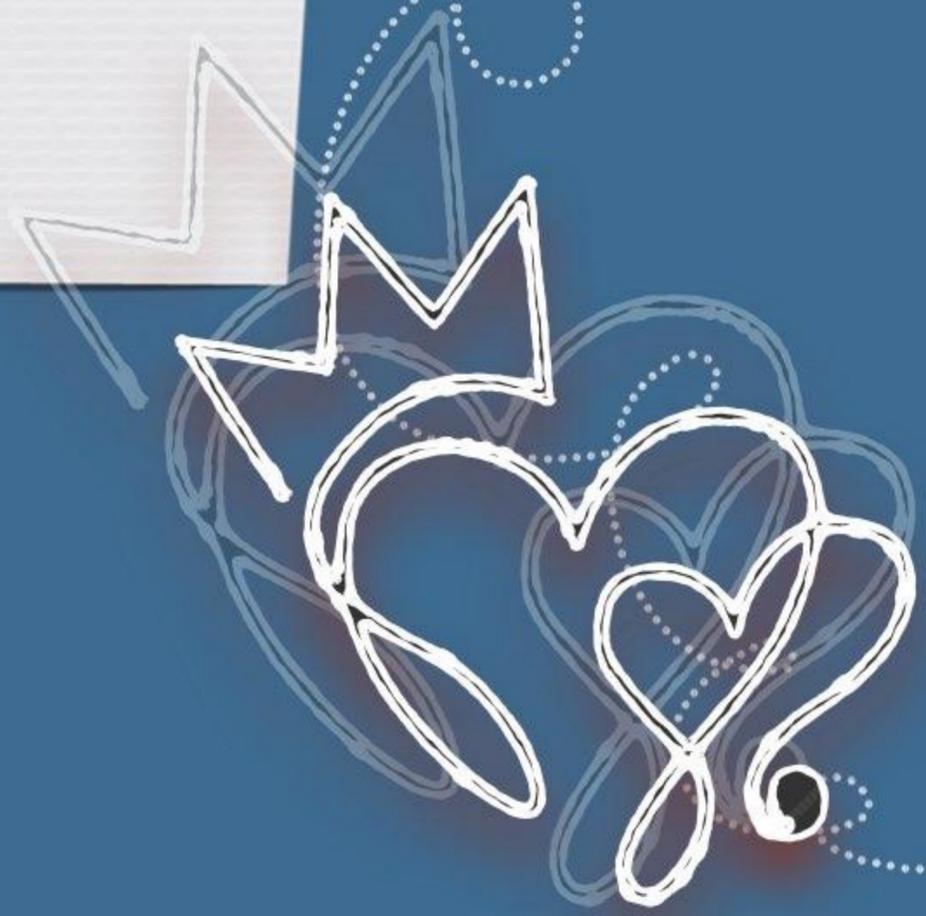
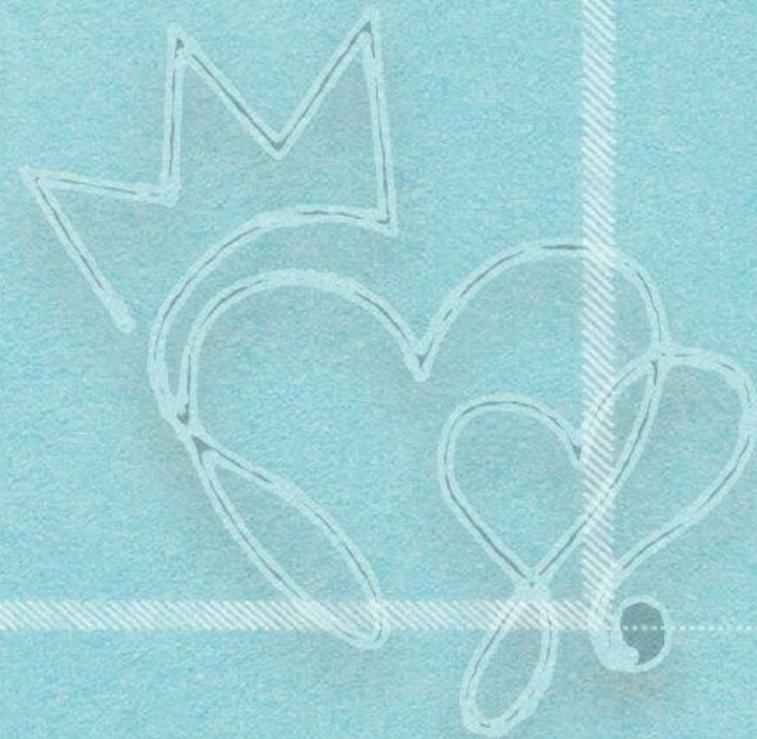


The Kingdom of Heaven is like...

Growing in God's Heart



'Talk about my heart'



'The Kingdom of Heaven is like...'



Kingdom Priorities

- ▶ This year (and always) we want to line our priorities up with The Lord's
- ▶ You must truly get to know a person to find out what is truly important to them
- ▶ As we draw near and learn the heart of the King, He becomes the King of our hearts

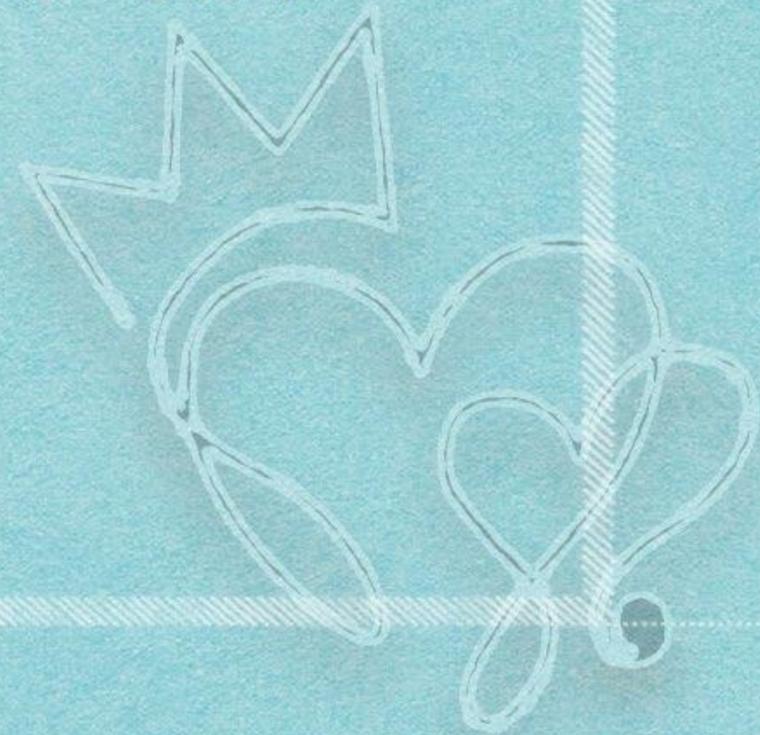


The Kingdom of Heaven is Like...

- ▶ A man who sowed good seed... (wheat and weeds)
- ▶ A mustard seed that a man took and planted...
- ▶ Yeast that a woman took and mixed into her dough
- ▶ Seemingly small things making a **BIG** impact



The heart of God is for us to be
rooted and growing in Him,
making a Kingdom impact on
the world around us

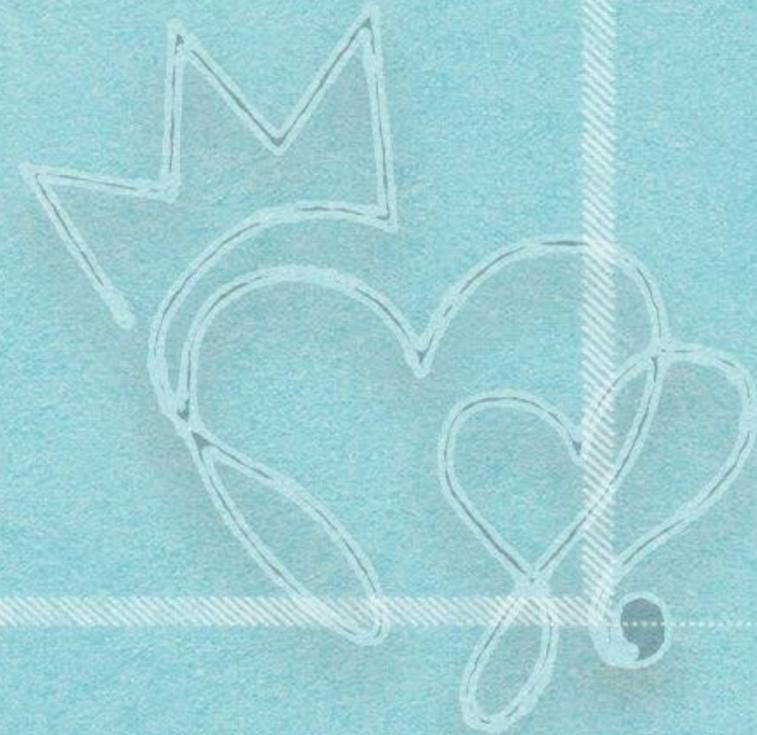


**What would you sell everything
you own to gain?**





What is your treasure?



The Kingdom of Heaven is Like...

- ▶ Having explained something of the rationale for the previous parables, Jesus brings a change of emphasis here
- ▶ The next two (very short) parables are about what is to be valued the most
- ▶ The Kingdom of Heaven



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.”

Matthew 13

delirious

KING OF FOOLS



King of Fools?

- ▶ It doesn't necessarily make sense to the onlooker
- ▶ "Mate, you're crazy - why would you be willing to sell your house, your cattle and your prized possessions for a field?!"
- ▶ Perhaps you have had reactions like this from some people for giving your life to Jesus?



18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written: 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.'

1 Corinthians 1

The Hidden Kingdom?

- ▶ The treasure was hidden in the field
- ▶ Is the Kingdom of God for those who seek what is right, good and of true value?
- ▶ Although the treasure in the field was hidden, it was there to be found!



33 But seek first his kingdom
and his righteousness, and all
these things will be given to
you as well.

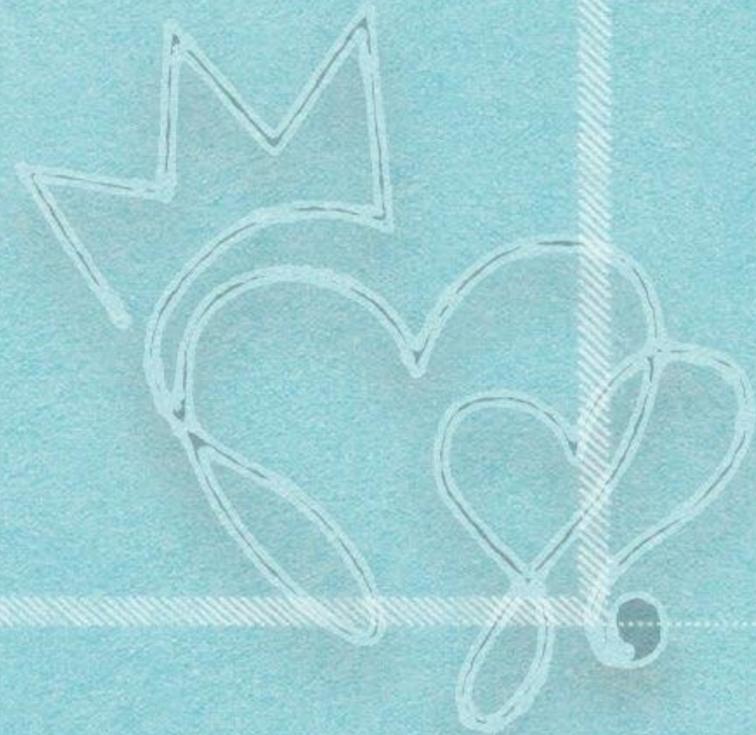
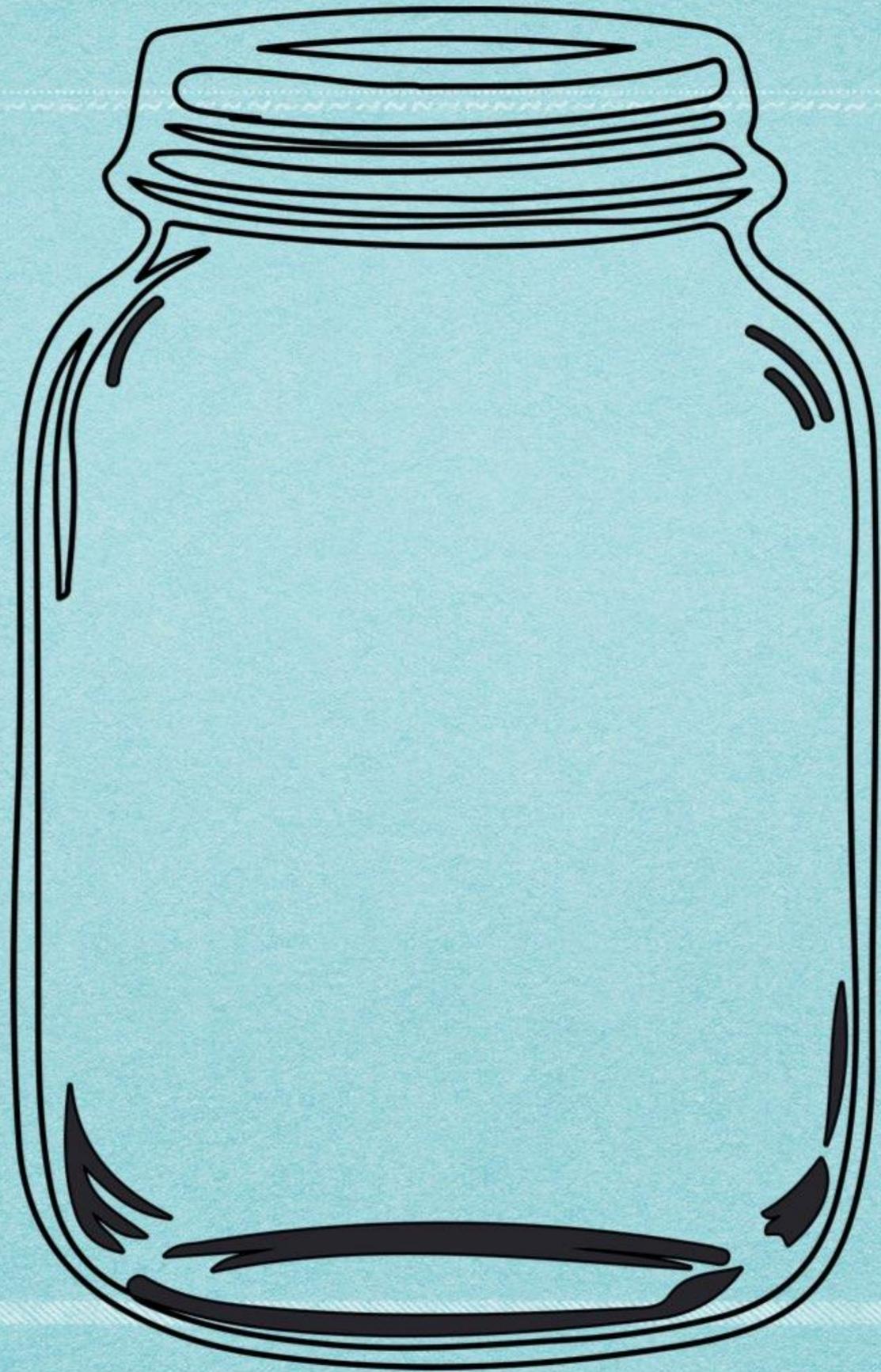
Matthew 6



Kingdom Priorities

- ▶ What is really important to you?
- ▶ Check your diary and your bank statement!
- ▶ If your life were an empty jar then how would those things suggest you are filling it?



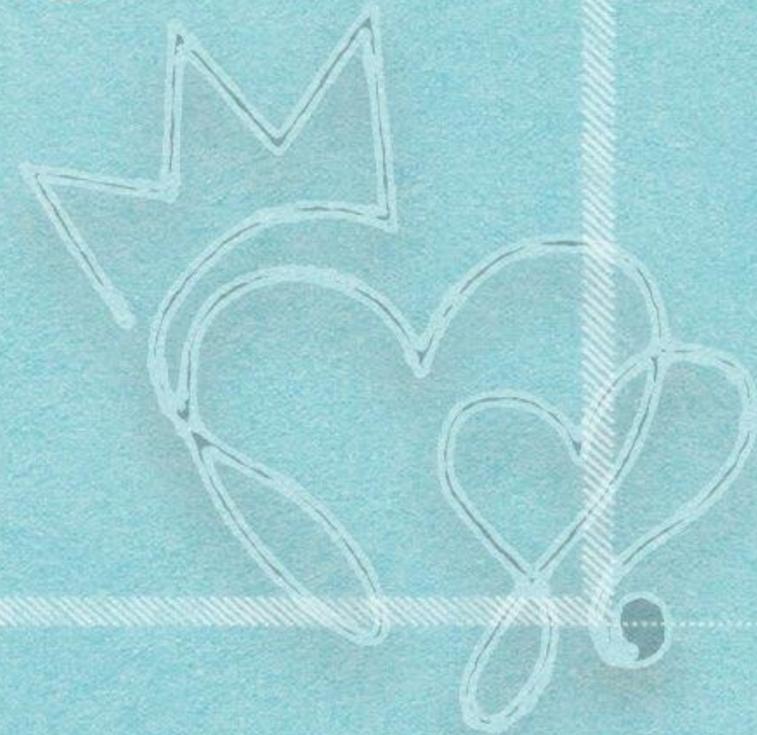


Your day is like a jar. If you fill it with “sand” first (small distractions), the big “rocks” (your priorities) won’t fit.

Put the rocks in first—then the pebbles—and watch how much more you can actually achieve.



**Now imagine what you can
achieve of eternal value if the
first things in the jar are
Kingdom priorities!**



36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

Mark 8

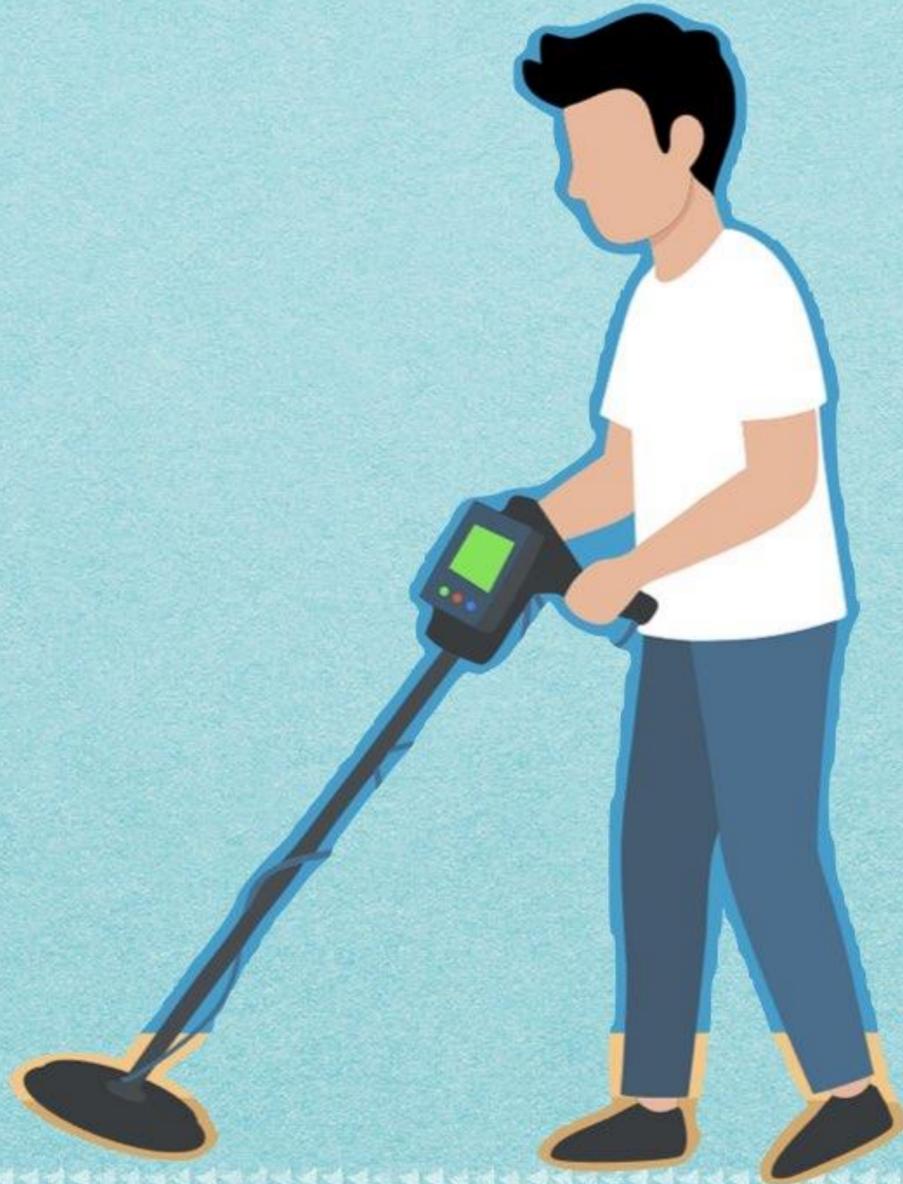


Kingdom Interpretation

- ▶ There are two major ways to understand the narrative and the characterisation in this story
- ▶ 1. Jesus (and His Kingdom) is the greatest treasure we can find and worth selling everything to gain
- ▶ 2. Jesus (the man) gave His all (on the cross) to rescue us (the treasure) and He will come again (the the field) to receive his inheritance



The Great Detectorist: Worth the Search



The Heart (King) of the Matter

- ▶ Jesus is either the man or the treasure
- ▶ In previous parables in Matthew 13, Jesus identified the 'man/gardener' as The Son of Man - Himself
- ▶ We might discuss what the man and treasure represent but the real point is what is of greatest value in the Kingdom of God, and therefore to us



19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.
20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6

Kingdom Joy

- ▶ It was the man's joy to rid himself of all he had for the treasure he knew awaited Him in the field
- ▶ Jesus willingly gave it all for us and will return to receive His bride!
- ▶ When we understand the value of the Kingdom it is a joy to give all we have in response to His grace

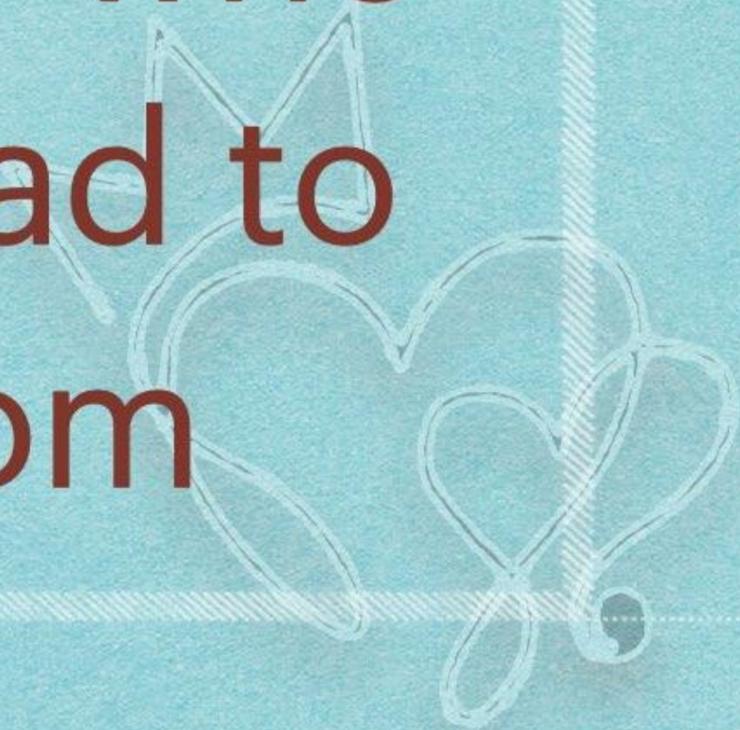


21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. 'One thing you lack,' he said. 'Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.'

22 At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth. 23 Jesus looked round and said to his disciples, 'How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!'

Mark 10

Let us agree that our greatest joy and privilege is to give all we have and all we are to worship and serve the one who gave all He is and all He had to bring us into His Kingdom



'Whoever has ears,
let them hear'

