

“He sold everything he had.” Things were falling apart. The authorities were plotting to **kill** Jesus as they were convinced he was an agent of Satan. Then Jesus’s family came looking for him. They were concerned about all the reports about Jesus—had he lost his mind and gone **insane**?! They were deeply concerned because family was everything in our world. It was our livelihood, our home, our source of food and clothing, our social security, our retirement, our protection, our sense of belonging, and our identity. We told Jesus that his mother and brothers were looking for him. But Jesus said to us, **“Who is my mother and my brothers?”** Then he looked around at all of us gathered to listen to him and said, **“Here is my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of my heavenly Father is my brother, sister, and mother.”** Then Jesus got up and walked away from his biological family, refusing to meet with them.

Jesus went to the Sea of Galilee and a crowd gathered. He always avoided letting the crowds surround him, so he got into a boat and began to teach them. On the mountain he had taught us very clearly his new Way of life. But now when he spoke to the crowds, his teaching was different. Everything he taught was hidden in parables, metaphors, and analogies. Over and over he said to the crowds, **“The Kingdom of Heaven is like...”** Then he would go on and give one image after another.

Jesus said the Kingdom of Heaven was like **a person scattering the seed of the Creator’s Word**. The Word went everywhere, but most of the time it was **rejected** because people were so committed to the path of Civilization. Even in those who wanted to embrace the Word, it often failed to flourish because it was choked out by the **troubles, anxieties, or pleasures** of life. Only the soft soil, broken up and **cleared of everything**, was able to truly receive the seed of the Creator’s Word.

Jesus said the Kingdom of Heaven was like **a person planting wheat seeds** in a field. But at night, an enemy was also scattering imitation-wheat seeds in the same field. Both the true wheat and the imitation-wheat grew alongside each other until harvest time. Then the true wheat was brought into the barn and the imitation-wheat was thrown into the fire to be burned.

Jesus said the Kingdom of Heaven was like **the tiniest seed planted in a garden**. It would grow into a great tree and overtake the whole garden. It would be a place of refuge for all creatures. Jesus said the Kingdom of Heaven was like **yeast hidden in a batch of flour**. It would slowly work its way from the inside-out through all the flour, getting into every part, and transforming the dough into something new.

Jesus said the Kingdom of Heaven was like **a treasure hidden in a field**. This treasure was more valuable than anything in the world. Those who discovered it were willing to sell everything they had to attain that treasure. Jesus said the Kingdom of Heaven was like **a merchant searching for valuable pearls**. This merchant was willing to sell everything he had to obtain these pearls. Jesus said the Kingdom of Heaven was like **a net catching fish**. All the fish would be caught in its grip. The good fish would be saved, the bad fish would be thrown away.

It was a barrage of images and stories. One parable after another and the crowds looked totally confused. We pulled Jesus aside and asked him, **“Why do you preach to the crowds in parables?!”** It was so different from how he had been teaching us. He told us that the mysteries of the Kingdom had been revealed to us because we had left **everything** behind to follow him and **participate** in his mission and ministry. But to these crowds who were just here to be entertained and wanted to be spectators, the truth came in parables because they were **blind, deaf, and hard-hearted** to the truth. Jesus quoted the prophet Isaiah to us about how the truth must be hidden from the crowds until their lives and cities come crashing down.

After preaching to the crowds, we returned with Jesus to his hometown of Nazareth and there Jesus began to teach in their synagogue. But the people of his hometown wouldn’t listen to Jesus. They said, **“Isn’t this Joseph’s son? The son of Mary? His brothers and sisters are here with us. Where did he get all these teachings?!”** They had no faith in Jesus. They were scandalized and offended at him and his claims to know the truth. Because of this lack of faith, Jesus was unable to bring them healing.

It was sad and crushing to see. Jesus’ own **family** and **hometown** were rejecting him. But he wasn’t deterred. Jesus was seeking after something **much greater** than family, something much greater than his hometown. He had his eyes on something much more valuable and precious: the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus was going to give up **everything** for this Kingdom. He was like the man in his own parable. **“He sold everything he had”** to attain the Kingdom. Jesus was letting go of **everything**, including his family and home, to obtain the Kingdom of Heaven. And Jesus was also doing the same for us. He was like the merchant in his own parable. He was leaving **everything** behind to pursue us—we were like precious **pearls** to him and he desired us to live with him in the Kingdom.

Jesus was living out the Kingdom of Heaven that his parables were describing. He was **scattering** the seeds of the Creator’s Word. He was **planting** the seed and yeast of the Kingdom within us. He was **selling everything** he had to bring the Kingdom to us. He was **dragging the net** of the Kingdom and had caught us in it. Jesus was calling us and pursuing us to join him in the Kingdom. He wanted us to see that there was no greater treasure than the Kingdom of Heaven. Our families were nothing compared to it. Our homes were nothing compared to it. Our wealth and jobs were nothing compared to it. Our lives were nothing compared to the Kingdom of Heaven. The Kingdom of Heaven was the answer to **everything**. It was the single greatest treasure in the world. In the Kingdom of Heaven we would have all we need, we would always be protected, we would always be loved, we would always be with our heavenly Father. Jesus was showing us the greatest treasure we would ever find. Would we pursue it? Would we do anything we needed to obtain it? Would we **“sell everything we had”** to get the Kingdom?

Jesus has **“sold everything he had”** to pursue you, to bring the Creator’s Word to you, to open up the Kingdom of Heaven for you. He has held nothing back. Jesus is urging you to see the unsurpassable worth of the Kingdom and is calling you to **sell everything you have** to obtain it. The Kingdom of Heaven can only be pursued with your **“everything.”** If you are not giving up everything else, then you cannot obtain it. Jesus has **“sold everything he had”** for you, to reveal the Kingdom to you. May his Word be planted deep in your heart so you may desire the Kingdom of Heaven above all else and **“sell everything you have”** to obtain the Kingdom. **Amen.**