

**Matt 13:31-33, 44-52**

**Title: Be careful what you pray (ask) for**

**Introduction:** Sometimes our prayers roll out of our tongues without paying attention to the words we say.

Matthew 10:34 NRSV, “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.”



Jesus gives several parables, beginning each one of them with the phrase, “The Kingdom of heaven is like...” (Matthew 13:31, 33 NRSV).

“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed” (verse 31). When the small Mustard seed is planted, it grows into a big tree where birds can build the nests.



“The kingdom of heaven is like yeast.” (Verse 33). What did yeast mean to those who listened to the parable? Yeast was very hard to handle. It could bubble up, it oozed, it collapsed, and it grew again.



“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls...” (Matthew 13:45 NRSV). It is a real challenge to find a pearl when it is lost. But once it is found, the search will have been worth it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; (Matthew 13:47 NRSV)



**Conclusion:** “Your kingdom come...” Be careful what you pray for because the Kingdom of heaven is like what Jesus has talked about. It is not like some imaginary gentle, meek and mild place.