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| Matt13:44-46  | What Would it look like?Confirmation | Pinelands – 9am – 01/10/2023 |

If we **REALLY** believe **what we believe** **in Church…**

 Then we should be **applying it** out **in our World.**

**I think sometimes** we are still trying to…

 **DO Church** the way our Ancestors…

Did Church 100 years ago.

Let us go back **120 years…**

 The role of the Church in Society was very different…

**Church** was ***Central to Life and to Society***

Everybody went to Church…

- Usually only ***one Church*** in each town

 - ***Where people gathered***

 - Where ***town announcements*** were made

 - Look at our rural towns…

 Where is the Main Church – Centre of town

 *(Moeder Kerk)*

 ***Town surrounded the Church.***

 - The Church ***connected*** people

**Today…** It is soo different…

 There are ***sooo many churches*** to choose from

 **Not** ***Everybody goes*** to Church.

 The Church is **not central** to life

 The **“non-churched”…**

**do not** come or go to Church

 **do not** see church as **IMPORTANT**

 With Social media, phones and technology…

 **People** are connected in many other ways.

**BUT…** We still ***expect people*** to come to our Church…

 We think this is the only place to hear the gospel

 To discover life.

**Listen Carefully** - In **no way** am I say… ***Church is not NB***

**BUT…** **MAYBE…** We need to **be doing** Church Differently?

Instead of… Expecting people to ***COME TO*** Church…

 Bringing people to Church…

**MAYBE…** We should be ***TAKING*** the Church to People

 We should be **INTENTIONAL…**

 About ***BEING*** the Church out there…

 On the Street,

 In the Work place,

 On the sports field,

 In our World.

***WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT WOULD LOOK LIKE?***

 *(We will get back to this…)*

In our **Matthew** readings…

**2 Parables** about the Kingdom of Heaven…

 **Hidden Treasure** AND **Pearl**

**TWO thoughts…**

1. Kingdom of heaven… Is Something of Great VALUE.

Treasured, Something longed for,

 ***Of Course…*** That represents…

Our Faith / Salvation / Relationship with Jesus

***DO WE?*** VIEW our FAITH… as a **Priceless Treasure**

 VALUE our relationships with Jesus…

 As something **Priceless…** Or just an ***ADD ON***

 **On a scale of 1-10…** ***What value do you place on your…***

 ***Relationship with Jesus?***

 ***Faith?***

**SECOND Thought**

1. Actions that follow…

Cover up the Treasure…

 ***Get what is needed…*** Buy the Field

Finds the Pearl…

 ***Get what is needed…*** Buy the Pearl

 Note… The **INTENTIONALITY…**

 *Do Something*

 *Make a plan*

***DO WE?*** Intentionally LIVE and SHARE our FAITH?

 Make a PLAN to Share our Treasure.

**We need to Remember…**

***Our FAITH…*** **IS NOT** a **compartmentalized pursuit…**

 But one that **ENFOLDS** every relationship,

 Every emotion, every daily experience…

 From the most significant to the most mundane.

**So what do you think it would look like…**

 If we **INTENTIONALLY** set about…

 *Doing Church* in our everyday worlds?

**What do you think it would look like…**

 If we **INTENTIONALLY** *shared the Treasure*

*of our Faith*… In our everyday worlds?

**What do you think it would look like…**

 If we **INTENTIONALLY** *Applied in* our everyday worlds..

 *what we believe in Church.*

**What do you think your everyday world would look like if…**

 You were more…

*Self Controlled? Patient?*

 *Gracious? Honest?*

 *Generous? Caring and Loving?*

**WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE??**

 ***I Guess that depends on how Valuable your Faith is to you***

We need to **INTENTIONALLY…**

 ***Apply… out there in our Worlds…***

 ***What we believe in here at Church.***

***A STORY IS TOLD…***

Of an English missionary in India…

 His mission board required him to keep detailed financial records using a double entry book keeping system…

 He had no background in accounting or business…

 He only had a calling to be a missionary.

Needless to say… his balances were always off

 The accounts kept getting mixed up…

Eventually the mission board released him…

 **Unfit for the mission field…** was their assessment…

When in truth he just a really bad book keeper…

 So he left without incident… Nobody knew where.

Years later a woman missionary visited a remote jungle village…

 To introduce the natives **to Jesus…**

*She told them…* of His **kindness** and **love for poor**

 How he went to their homes and **ate with them**

 How he **visited them when** they were **sick**

 How he **fed the hungry** and **healed the sick**

 Bound up the wounds of the broken hearted

 And how **children loved to follow him.**

***The eyes of the natives lit up…***

 There **faces beamed** as one of them exclaimed…

***“We know him well; He has been living here for years”***

When they took the missionary to see him…

It was the man who had been dismissed by the mission board.

**He had settled** in the village **to do his work,**

 Released from the double entry book keeping system

Whenever someone was sick…

 He visited them, Checked on them and

tended to their needs where necessary

Whenever they were hurt…

 He nursed their wounds

For the old and the infirm he brought food and water…

He moved from hut to hut,

 Doing what he could to help.

**I wonder…** If someone came to your village, your neighbourhood,

 Your place of work, Your School…

And that person began to describe **Jesus…**

 Would anyone hearing the description say…

***“We know that person well; they have been living here for years!”***

 **And maybe… Point to you.**

**Matthew 13:44-46**

**The Parable of the Hidden Treasure**

“The Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man happens to find a treasure hidden in a field. He covers it up again, and is so happy that he goes and sells everything he has, and then goes back and buys that field.

**The Parable of the Pearl**

“Also, the Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man is looking for fine pearls, and when he finds one that is unusually fine, he goes and sells everything he has, and buys that pearl.