



February 3, 2019
The 4th Sunday after Epiphany

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Click on Godly Play and under "What's New?" click on the Godly Play newsletter.

TAKING GODLY PLAY HOME

We are finally back at Sunday School after some weather and schedule disruptions!

For the rest of the Season after Epiphany (5 Sundays including this one), we will be working with parables.

Today we worked with the parable of the Great Pearl (Matthew 13:45). Even though it is only one verse, it is a great story about a man who went in search of the Great Pearl, and when he found it, sold everything he had to acquire it.

It is a story that has at least two paths of understanding. If the Great Pearl is the Kingdom of God, it is a story about how precious life in the kingdom is for us, more prized than anything else.

But perhaps the man in search of the Great Pearl is Jesus himself, and the Great Pearl is us. Jesus will give up anything to find us and claim us as his own.

Read the brief story in Matthew and ask your kinds to wonder about it. Wonder

especially if the Great Pearl is us and the man seeking us is Jesus.

THEOLOGY FOR PARENTS/GRANDPARENTS

Parables

Here are some words about the parables from a favorite author of mine, Robert Capon:

"Openness is the major requirement for approaching the Scriptures. And nowhere in the Bible is an un-made up mind more called for than when reading the parables of Jesus. Indeed, if I were forced to give a short answer to the question 'What is the Bible as a whole about?' I think I would . . . base my reply squarely on those parables. If they have a single subject at all, it is quite plainly the kingdom of God. . . . the Bible is about the mystery of the kingdom—a mystery that, by definition, is something well hidden and not at all likely to be grasped by plausibility-loving minds.

"With Jesus, the device of [telling parables] is used not to explain things to people's satisfaction but to call attention to the unsatisfactoriness of all their previous explanations and understandings."

In other words, Father Capon is reminding us that Jesus wanted not to neatly explain things, but to cause us to wonder and to think. He wanted to surprise us with a different way of understanding and living life. That is what the parables do.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday School Schedule

- I am anticipating Sunday School to be held every Sunday from now through Palm Sunday, which is April 14.
- Easter Day, April 21, there will be no Sunday School.
- Sunday School will pick up again after Easter and run through Pentecost Sunday, June 9th.

Last Sunday after Epiphany:

Burying the Alleluia

As we have done in the past, at the end of the Service on the Last Sunday after Epiphany (March 3), the kids will “bury the Alleluia,” signifying the disappearance of that word from the liturgy during Lent.

Holy Week for Kids

I am hoping to do a special event for kids around the stories of Holy Week. I’ve done this in other parishes to great effect. It would be the Saturday (April 13) before Palm Sunday starting at 10 am (we can negotiate that) and finishing up with lunch.

Easter Day

I am assuming there will be a children’s time during the Service that day, as well as the Easter Egg Hunt afterwards.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

1. I am hoping to have an occasional Sunday upstairs, or working with the adult class, so if you are willing to take the odd Sunday with the kids let me know. I can do a Godly Play training for anyone who’d like to give it a try.
2. If you can help with “Holy Week for Kids” or the Easter Egg Hunt, please let me know.
3. After Sunday School ends, I’d love to do a family event that can bring us all together to have some fun. Any ideas? Go to the Zoo? Somewhere else that’s fun for kids?

Have a blessed week!

Michael

