

Sunday, July 26, 2020
Pentecost 8
Grace Lutheran Church
Somers Point, NJ 08244
Interim Pastor: Rev. Kevin Hilgendorf
“The Riches of God’s Reign”



I am a bit of a procrastinator. I was coming to end of my readings in *The Word in Season* and received the renewal notice with three options one, two, or three year renewal of my subscription. I put it aside to think about it and when it was time I decided one year. I anticipated the devotional would come late in the mail. Nevertheless it was worth the wait. After approximately 30 days I called to make sure they received

payment. They did; however, I didn't receive the booklet I told them. They would send another. I waited patiently checking the mail for its delivery. Finally after another two weeks it arrived on Friday. I was thrilled. I did not delay in reading the forward, the writer's information, and then proceeded to catch up on all the readings to date. The devotional is a treasure!

It seems that Jesus is telling us when the kingdom of God is found, its value causes all else to diminish in comparison. It is worthy of our time, our efforts, our resources. Perhaps these parables call us to discern what is essential and what is superfluous in our lives. What is your "Precious Pearl"? A devotional booklet? Something else? And what would you be willing to give up to possess it? As Jesus teaches the merchant gave up everything to purchase the pearl.

I still have the free purple T-shirt from a youth gathering that has a sketched image of a face in the corner, but the message is what I treasure, "I want to know the mind of God the rest is detail." -Albert Einstein.

The kingdom of God is like a devotional booklet filled with stories of God and God's people.

The kingdom of God is like the children gathering for one week learning God's stories, singing God's praises, and creating expressions on God's love. I heard that some returning home would sing and play repeating what they have learned.

The kingdom of God is like a group of volunteers preparing a meal for approximately 150 hungry visitors at a center city Lutheran Church.

What is the kingdom of God like to you? Women collecting and making items for the baby shower newborn to size two. Jesus is telling us that when the kingdom of God is found, its value causes all else to diminish in comparison.

Now the peace which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen