

The Kingdom of Heaven is like...

Think back to the past few weeks of readings. Jesus is always talking about the Kingdom of Heaven. He uses this phrase quite a lot, 'The Kingdom of Heaven is like...' and then goes on to tell a story.

What is the purpose of the story that follows?

When you read these stories, do they present a clear picture of what the Kingdom of God is like? Why or why not?

Have you ever tried to explain something without actually talking directly about it? Maybe a food that you have eaten that you are telling a friend about or a day so boring that it reminds you of another time in your life? Do you think that is helpful to give understanding?

Jesus does this again and again, uses things from the common life of those in Israel to talk about what the Kingdom of Heaven is like. He is making it relatable to the listener.

Take a second and read Matthew 25:1-13. Obviously, this is a difficult story to relate to as we do not have oil lamps and rarely do we 'wait' for someone when they could just text us when they are there. But try rewriting this in your own words.

What is the message that Jesus is trying to tell the listeners?

How does this relate to us right now?