



April 18, 2018

WAITING TO PAY ATTENTION

Jesus tells stories to help us pay attention.

Look at the man, a Samaritan, who stops on the side of a road to help a traveler who is hurt. Loving your neighbor looks like that.

Look at how the woman who had only ten coins rejoiced when she finds the one that was lost. God is like that: searching for the lost, rejoicing when they are found.

Look at the farmer who sows seed everywhere. Most of it falls on the rocks, or in the weeds, or on the path where it is eaten by birds. But that's okay, because enough of the seed falls into good soil to make the sowing worth it. The kingdom of God is like that.

The parables help us to pay attention to the things we might overlook, like the people in coats who braved the terrible weather to cheer and cheer for the marathon runners on Monday, or the family who made room at their dinner table for a guest to share the meal, or the seven-year-old girl who stood in church on Easter and danced with joy to the Hallelujah chorus.

In the parables, the signs of God's kingdom are often in places that would be easy to overlook, like the smallness of the mustard seed. The idea is that we're not waiting for God to arrive; we're waiting to pay attention.

I'll see you in church!

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster
Senior Minister

P.S. You can find these parables in Luke 10, Luke 15, and Mark 4.