

1 Kings 3:5-12

Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

Romans 8:26-39

“The unfolding of your words gives light;
turn and be gracious to us, O God.” AMEN!

(Sing)

“Still don’t know what I was waiting for
And my time was running wild,
a million dead end streets and

Every time I thought I’d got it made
It seemed the taste was not so sweet

So I turned myself to face me
But I’ve never caught a glimpse

How the others must see the faker
I’m much too fast to take that test...

Ch-Ch-Ch-Ch- Changes
(Turn and face the strange)

Ch-Ch-Changes, don’t want to be a richer man

Ch-Ch-Ch-Ch- Changes
(Turn and face the strange)

Ch-Ch- Changes, just gonna have
to be a different man

Time may change me
But I can't trace time"

The dynamic and poetic lyrics of David Bowie.

They came to mind and had to be put into
the start of today's homily because we

have Solomon's plea to God
for wisdom and discernment.

He's actually pleading with God in a way similar
to our prayer at the end of last week's sermon.

Remember our prayer mantra?

"Teach me your way, O Lord."

Yes, Solomon knows in order to lead
the kingdom of the people of God,
he'll need God and God's wisdom.

Even at his young age he "turned to face himself,"
and knew he needed God.

And then in the string of parables that
Jesus told the crowd and
his followers (and we reread just now).

Parables from Jesus that give us these
glimpses of the kingdom of God,

or if that language is hard to understand
in our context then we can say this was Jesus'
way of explaining what heaven's realm is like.

You know, some people never catch
a glimpse of it on this side of heaven,
but those within earshot today do.

We get to gather some wisdom from Jesus.

And find how tiny things (like itty bitty seeds)
turn to places of shelter.

Small additions (like hidden yeast in flour)
that makes bread grow and grow
to feed many people.

Then he spoke of a treasure hunter who discovered
of valuables without even trying and
then a merchant who deals in fine things
finds a treasure of great value.

"Don't want to be a richer man," at least
in the way of material wealth,
Jesus spoke of things even more valuable
than the dollar.

Culminating in the final parable of a net
that is cast out and what does it do?

It catches everyone! And “Time may change me.”

Indeed, time and God’s net will
reveal what we are waiting for.

Being here, or there, taking time in prayer,
song, together in community, and with
the Word begins to make clear for us
the answer to what it is we are waiting for.

Shelter, food, ministry (searching and discovery),
of giving and salvation.

They are all themes for each of the five parables
this morning, and lo and behold!

They are themes that will begin our journey in
the open forum and the transformations that await.

“Ch- Ch-Ch- Ch- Changes!”

We may enter into them with trepidation,
for change is hard, but look (and remember)
who’s with us in this process.

The Spirit of Christ is present and
we recall this is what heaven's realm is like.
(Pause)

At the conclusion of the gospel this morning,
Jesus said, "the one who has been
trained for the kingdom
is like a household who brings out of
their treasure what is new and what is old."

It is a mysterious thing to say, but we take from it
that Jesus spoke of something valuable from God.

Something... more precious than anything and
that the "old" is God's work in the past and
the "new" is what God is up to right now
and we are gonna be different!

We have permission to love the "old" in our lives,
but must remember to give the "new" a chance.

This church does that!

We have permission to love the "new,"
but must remember to not throw away
every bit of "old" with abandon for
God's hand is in both.

This church does that, too!

God's treasure tugs at us to answer a "yes!"

Knowing we can turn and face the change!

AMEN!