Sermon: **The Kingdom of Heaven is like this.** (Matthew 13.31, 33, 44, 45, 47) (see also 13.24 & 20.1)

Some things are hard to describe – what makes a marriage bad/good? What makes a church thriving?

The Kingdom of Heaven is a similarly hard to describe thing. Which is why Jesus used many parallels. Five in our reading.

[1] A mustard seed – small beginnings great endings.

[2] Yeast – only a little makes a huge difference.

[3] Treasure – worth selling all to get it

[4] Pearl – worth selling all to get it

[5] Net – keep the good, throw away the worthless.

I could spend much time going through them all, but I will not today.

I want to think about what they *together* are trying to say.

1. The Kingdom of Heaven is obviously something very special.

Jesus would not have given so many parallels if it was ordinary. Thus it is worth pursuing.

Hamish Bond has switched from rowing to cycling – clearly he feels this is worth pursuing.

1. There is a difference between where The Kingdom of Heaven is now and where it will end up.

Think back to when you were young – are you where you expected to be?

1. The Kingdom of Heaven is not what we do, but what we accept.

Watching All Blacks play – hard to be neutral! In The Kingdom of Heaven you cannot sit on the side-lines, or be neutral. Thus you must accept or reject.

1. The Kingdom of Heaven is hidden

Antiques Roadshow – so often amazing finds are in jumble sales.

The Kingdom of Heaven is a hidden treasure, mysterious, not obvious unless you are looking.

The Kingdom of Heaven is worth giving your life for, and it is never too late to start!