

# Sunday Service ~ April 13, 2025

## Service for Swansea & Charlestown Presbyterian Church

### Welcome & Prayer

So, join with us this morning to praise God, remembering David's words from Psalm 117:*Praise the Lord, all nations. Extol him, all peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.*

**Prayer.** Dear Father, From the time we wake in the morning, to the time we go to sleep at night we have so much to praise you for. We are surrounded by examples of your majesty, power and love. Your creation stares us in the face as we see the majesty of the sun and the rain, of plants and animals, the wonder of the bodies you have given us. You care for us, provide food and shelter, friends and family for us.

Yet, despite knowing all this, we don't always feel like acknowledging you. In times like this, as we struggle with sadness, we often think more about ourselves than about you. Forgive us, help us to return to you and remember your constant love, your promises to never leave us, to provide the best for us. We know that you will renew our hearts and souls, that through your Spirit we can have peace, that you will draw us close to you. Help us this morning not to be distracted, but instead to have clear heads and humble hearts, ready to acknowledge you, to come close to you & to learn of your purposes for us. In Jesus' name. Amen

### Song – Worthy of all Praise

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CREurB4o54M>

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|--|---|
| 1. Jesus, Lord of creation,<br>King of Salvation,<br>Great God of grace.<br>Messiah, promised redeemer<br>Our risen saviour,<br>Author of peace. | 2. For you sought us, wonderfully bought us<br>You paid for us dearly,<br>The price was your blood.<br>And you freed us, brought us to pardon,<br>Back to the garden,<br>Safe in your love. |
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#### Chorus

You are worthy of all praise,  
 Worthy of all honour,  
 Worthy of glory, wisdom and strength.  
 And so we'll sing through endless days  
 That you alone are worthy;  
 Worthy of all power,  
 Worthy of all praise.

### Bible Reading – Matthew 13:24 – 43 (NIV)

24 "Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. 25 But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came & sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. 26 When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. 27 "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' 28 "An enemy did this,' he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' 29 "No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time, I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'" 31 He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his

field. 32 Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches." 33 He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took & mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough." 34 Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. 35 So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet: "I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world." 36 Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field." 37 He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. 38 The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, 39 and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. 40 As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. 42 They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear."

## Announcements

**Focus for Month: Easter.** Easter is one of the few occasions throughout the year that people would consider going to Church. So why not ask them? The topic will be on the death and resurrection of Jesus. The fellowship within our Church is warm and caring. And there is a bit more space over the weekend. So, give it a go. But don't forget to pray first that the Lord will open their hearts

### Easter Services

17/4 Last Supper Communion Service: 4:30pm (Swansea) & 6pm (Charlestown Office)

(Please note bring a cushion if you are under 40 and coming to Charlestown!)

19/4 Good Friday: 8am (Swansea) & 9:45am (Charlestown Public School)

20/4 Resurrection Sunday: 8am (Swansea); 9:45am & 6pm (Charlestown Public School)

**Charlestown Church has moved!** For the next 4-5 months we will be meeting at Charlestown Public School, on the corner of Smith St and Fredrick Sts. Please have a look around for the extra jobs that need to be done (set up, car park attendant, clean toilets afterwards, first aid office etc) and see if you can help out with something.

**School Holidays.** NSW school holidays start this weekend that means the regular activities of the church will go into recess until Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April. For these school holidays only (and to avoid confusion), Kids Church will continue to operate as normal over these holidays. So the kids should be dropped off at the Cottage by 9:40am and a full lesson will be taught. The only exception will be THRIVE who will join us at Church while school are on holidays.

**New City Catechism: Question 16.** What is sin? Sin is rejecting or ignoring God in the world he created, rebelling against him by living without reference to him, not being or doing what he requires in his law—resulting in our death and the disintegration of all creation. **Scripture:** "Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness." (1 John 3:4)

**Swansea Ladies Morning Tea** - Monday 14th April 10am at Channel Café Swansea. All Welcome.

**Swansea Church.** After last Sunday's congregational meeting, we have reached out to C3 who are a looking for a temporary church home. From the last week of April (and for a period of up to 6 months) they will be using our facilities between 9:30-11:30am on a Sunday morning and between 4:30-7pm on a Friday evening. They will pay us \$200 pw for this privilege.

**Redevelopment of Charlestown Church.** The builders are planning to put up fences, create a site office and knock down the entrance and old parents' room, this week! So its really happening!

## Pastoral Prayer

**Pray for China** (Population 1.4 billion, Christians, 97 million). The relative openness the Chinese church experienced for many years is slowly closing. Each year, the expression of Christian faith becomes subject to increasingly **complex** legal restrictions at the whim of the ruling Chinese Communist Party. Pray for believers to experience growth in their faith even as persecution rises. That God protects believers in areas where Islam or Buddhism are the primary faiths. That church leaders will feel the presence of Christ even under constant monitoring.

**Pray for Phoebe Baldwin (Quizworx).** Praise God for the many shows the Quiz Worx team has done this Easter season. Pray that she will have sustained energy as she starts learning her first up-front role so that she will be prepared for her first tour in a little over one month. Thank God for the provision of her new accommodation in Sydney and for the kindness and generosity of her new housemate. Pray that she will be able to settle well into her new place.

**Pray for safety on the road** during the Easter school holidays. Pray that people will slow down and be sensible on the roads. That they won't take risks or drugs as they drive. Pray for the first responders as they continue to work hard during other people's holidays.

**Pray for our groups** that use the Charlestown Church/Hall for their programmes – especially Kids Church, Sparklers, IMPACT, Junior Youth and bible Studies. That disruptions will be at a minimum and that everyone can work hard to keep connected during this time of disruption.

## Bible Reading – Matthew 13:44-58 (NIV)

44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. 45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. 46 When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. 47 “Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. 48 When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. 49 This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous 50 and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 51 “Have you understood all these things?” Jesus asked. “Yes,” they replied. 52 He said to them, “Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old. 53 When Jesus had finished these parables, he moved on from there. 54 Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. “Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?” they asked. 55 “Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t his mother’s name Mary, and aren’t his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? 56 Aren’t all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?” 57 And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honour except in his own town and in his own home.” 58 And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.”

## Song – Fight the good fight <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YppcFC8mxKM>

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Fight the good fight with all your might.<br/>Christ is your strength and Christ your right.<br/><br/>Lay hold on life, and it shall be<br/>Your joy and crown eternally.</p> | <p>Life with its way before us lies;<br/>Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.</p>  |
| <p>2. Run the straight race through God's good grace;<br/>Lift up your eyes, and seek Christ's face.</p>  | <p>3. Cast care aside; lean on your guide.<br/>God's boundless mercy will provide.<br/>Trust, and your trusting soul shall prove<br/>Christ is its life, and Christ its love.</p> |
|   | <p>4. Faint not nor fear: God's arms are near.<br/>God changes not, and you are dear.</p>   |

## Sermon – The race of our lives! (Stephen T)

Sermon link: <https://youtu.be/Gcd9oErzPz4>

A couple of weeks ago I was watching the Spotlight Show on Channel 7 where Bruce McAveney was interviewing the young sprint star Gout Gout. Gout is from a South Sudanese background but born in Australia and at the end of last year he broke the longest standing track record in Australia, Peter Norman's 200m time set at the 1968 Olympics. Gout ran the time in 20.04. That is so fast, it is faster than what Usain Bolt ran when he was the same age.

And it got me thinking about the stages and mechanics of running such a race. You start off stationary and crouched and you need to concentrate on the starting pistol and when it goes you need to accelerate quickly, that's the first stage. Then the second stage is you have to get into a rhythm and find your top speed. And lastly as you tire you need to keep an eye on the finishing line and put all your energy into hanging on to the very end.

Slide 2

Now that's also a parable of the Christian life, isn't it? Where a parable is an everyday thing that we can use as a metaphor to teach us about God's kingdom. God's Kingdom is like a sprint race where you have to enter the race & concentrate on the one that is in control of the race, Jesus Christ. You need to grow in holiness as the race progresses and you need to persevere, despite your tiredness, until the very end. So, let's use that picture to help us understand the last half of Matthew 13. Where there are 7 parables or pictures about the Kingdom of Heaven.

Jesus is teaching his disciples about the Kingdom of heaven, about being in the very presence of God. Having Jesus as your King. Living with Him as the ruler of your life. It's a corporate thing, it's about us doing life together under God's rule. But it is also an individual thing. You and I running the race of our lives. And like any race it has a

Slide 3

### 1. Start to the Race (Verses 44-46)

44 *"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field."*

You enter this race when you find the hidden treasure of the gospel of Jesus Christ and you give up everything in order to possess it. You join God's Kingdom of heaven. And that Kingdom is sometimes found by us, when we are least expecting it.

Slide 4

So, in the parable, the man is just working in a field or was he just walking through it? When out of the corner of his eye he sees something that grabs his attention. His heart beats a bit faster, as he gets down on his hands and knees and starts digging and digging until he finds something beyond his wildest dreams. What does he do? He doesn't own the field, if he takes it away from its resting place he is stealing this treasure. That's what the law says.

But what if he buys the field, then the treasure is his? So, you can imagine he buries it even deeper, makes himself a treasure map, spends the next period of time raising up the cash to buy the field and then the treasure is his. And his joy is complete.

It's a bit far-fetched, isn't it? Actually, not at all. There were no banks in Jesus' day and there were regularly other clans, or neighbouring nations wanting to take over someone else's land, so one of the best ways to

protect your assets was not to put them under your mattress but to bury them. And someone might have done that and then been killed in the war, or died unexpectedly and who knows how long that treasure has been in that field?

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I was reading about a tenant farmer in Suffolk, in England, a man called Peter Watling. One day he loses his hammer and so he asks his friend who has a metal detector for some help. They don't find the hammer though, instead they discover the largest horde of fifth century Roman artifacts in the world, worth about eight million dollars.

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The parable is saying that's how you and I start the race of life. We may not be looking for it but one day we are told about the location of the best treasure in the whole world, the kingdom of heaven. And it's so, so good we are willing to give up everything in order to receive it. We will give up our life, our soul, our all. For even at such a high price, it's still a bargain. It's why we have been made. It gives us the joy that life was made for. It's worth everything for us.

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That's how we start the race of faith. We give up all that we have in order to claim it for ourselves. But sometimes it just doesn't come out of the blue, we search and search for this kingdom. And then when we find it, we know straight away that this is exactly what we were looking for. *45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. 46 When he found one of great value, he went away & sold everything he had & bought it."*

The pearl of great price, says the pearl trader, I have finally found the one. It's so, so beautiful that he doesn't want to trade it and make more money from it. He wants to possess it. So, he sells everything else, his business, his other pearls, to get the thing that has captured his heart. God's gospel, the kingdom of heaven is like that. Yes, there are other pearls on the market – there is family, and fame, food and things but there is nothing quite like Jesus.

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Justin Martyr, lived in the second century. By all accounts he was a brilliant professor of philosophy, who knew all about the competing philosophies of his day. But one day he met a little old man in the fields who told him about Jesus. He started reading the Bible and was convinced this was the one philosophy of life that he had been looking for. He gave up his old position and lifestyle, bought the pearl of great price and lived for Jesus from then on and even died for Jesus after being a great writer and apologist for him all of his life.

Slide 9

And this passage is saying that there are all sorts of treasures and pearls out there in the world that you can find and taste and seek, but there is only one that can truly satisfy your heart's greatest desires. It is the Kingdom of heaven. It is found in King Jesus. But we need to give up everything to possess it. The cost of discipleship is very, very great. If you want to start the race for real life it will involve taking up your cross and following him, where ever he calls you to go. But it will be worth it. It is the path, the only path, to true joy.

Friends knowing Jesus Christ, enjoying the forgiveness that He can provide, being adopted into His family, made heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, being changed into His likeness from one degree of glory to another, being comforted in all our sorrows, rebuked in all our wanderings, preserved through all our dangers, and brought safely home at last, is the treasure in the field that we have stumbled across. It's the pearl of great price that we have been looking for all of our life. Let it capture your heart. Let it fill your gaze. Let it change your life. It is how you start the race of life but it will also affect also how you run

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## 2. The middle part of this race (Verses 24-43)

For “*The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. 32 Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.*”

Slide 11

God’s Kingdom might begin small, but it will grow large. It might look insignificant but it will be highly significant. It might be overlooked like a mustard seed but it will overcome all sorts of time and trouble like a mustard tree. For in the end the kingdom will be bigger than you can ever imagine. The book of Revelation says there will be people from every tribe, colour and nation all around the throne giving praise and honour and glory to God on that last day.

It may look insignificant but it is going to swamp the nations. Now what did God’s kingdom look like at the beginning of Matthew 13? Jesus speaking from a boat with a handful of disciples, with Pharisees who thought he was blaspheming, a family who thought he was bonkers and crowds that were only there to see him do the miraculous. And yet where has that Kingdom gone to? It has spread to the very ends of the earth.

When I grew up there were maps which showed the British Empire covering the globe. They used to say the sun never sets on the empire. But where is the British Empire today? It’s gone. It’s history. It’s no more. And yet Jesus says the seed he plants in this world will last forever. It will grow and it will continue to grow. And it is growing in China, they say upwards of 120 million Christians. In Africa, in South America, there is phenomenal growth. Even in Islam, in Iran and parts of the Middle East, that seed planted by missionaries, planted by radio, being planted over the web is growing.

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Yes, it may not be growing in Australia, it may not be growing in our suburb but it is growing. Because “*The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took & mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough.*” The kingdom of heaven will not just grow it will permeate. It will transform the world that is living in. It will affect all parts of the society that it is set loose into.

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Despite its appalling failures and sins, it is beyond question that down the ages the Church has had an amazing record in science, medical care, social work, nursing, education, the liberation of women and slaves, the care of prisoners, the aged, the helpless, the dying. The yeast of the gospel has done some wonderful things through the loaf of the world. And the yeast of the gospel has also had some amazing impacts on people like you and me as well.

Lives have been changes. Futures transformed. Sins have been repented of. Love has grown. Marriages have been saved. Care has been given. Godliness has made its mark in people like you & me. The yeast of the gospel has transformed both the global and the personal. And that should be enormously encouraging to you & I. Sometimes we Christians are all doom & gloom, the world is getting darker, the opposition to the truth greater and greater. But there is power in that mustard seed, there is a transformative difference that will be made in that yeast. The mustard tree is growing. The yeast will even get through 60 pounds of dough.

Slide 14

So, keep running the race of life. Make sure with God’s help you get to your top speed. The Kingdom will make a difference. Your life is not meaningless. Even if as, you survey the field of this world, there seems to be more weeds than wheat.

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24 Jesus told them another parable: “*The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. 25 But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came & sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. 26 When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. 27 “The owner’s*

*servants came to him & said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' 28 "An enemy did this,' he replied.*

For while God is doing his work in the world, as the mustard seed does grow and the yeast reaches every nation, there is another force at work in this world. Satan. He can't uproot the wheat; he can't get rid of the Christian gospel but that doesn't mean he doesn't want to ruin the harvest. So next to the good seed, he plants bad seed, next to the wheat, he plants a counterfeit plant, a darnel seed, that looks like wheat but is instead completely worthless. Satan, you see, wants to sabotage God's crop.

You know sometimes we look at what is going on in the world and we wonder if God has lost control. Wars everywhere. Violence. People in power throwing their weight around. Churches falling for false doctrine, Families falling apart. And we ask why is evil so persistent, why doesn't God do something about it? Why doesn't he answer my prayers!

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*"The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' 29 "No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time, I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'"*

Every farmer knows, there is a time of planting, then there is a time of waiting before there is finally a time of harvesting. Now the kingdom of heaven has been planted. The work of God is growing but evil will not be weeded out until the very end. Yes, Jesus has died to forgive us of our sin & to give us the power to say no to sin but sin will be in God's field until the very end. We are not to uproot all the worlds sin, where would we start? We are to leave that task for God. Our job is to keep sowing the seed, to keep growing the wheat. To keep running the race. And be patient and wait for God to do his work, in his way and at his time.

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It reminds me of the story of POW camp in Germany during WW2 who managed to build a radio from bits and scraps of things they found in the camp. And get it transmitting and one day they tuned into a British station that told them that the war was over. The peace treaty had been signed. That liberation was coming their way. And they waited. And they waited.

They were still were in the prison camp. German guards still threatening to shoot them daily. Still had to live on terrible scraps. But they knew the victory was coming. They just had to wait. And that gave them hope. They knew it would happen soon. And that's what this parable is telling us. There will be a time when evil is defeated, destroyed. There will be a time when you will be completely liberated from all wrongdoing. But in the meantime, don't get discouraged. Be patient. Keep your eyes on

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### **3. The Finish line to the Race (verses 47-51)**

*47 "Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. 48 When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. "*

One day there will be a separation of the good from the bad, the wheat from the weeds, the edible fish from the junk. There is a day of salvation but there is also coming day of judgement. That's the end of the age. That's the finish line we are running toward. So don't give up. Keep your eyes on the prize. Don't be discouraged. Don't stop running the race of faith. And realise just as there will be wheat and weeds in the world, there will also be good fish and bad fish in the church.

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You see the picture in this parable is of a dragnet. You see in those days on the Sea of Galilee, a flat-bottomed boat would tie one end of a long net to the shore, pull the other end out into the lake with corks on the top and sinkers on the bottom and then move in a great arch and it would trap everything. The boat would complete the arc, pull the nets onto the shore and separate the good from the bad, the useful from the useless.

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49 *"This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous 50 and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."* The world is full of God fearers and God haters. The Church itself is full of true followers and counterfeit believers. The church is and will remain a mixed assembly of regenerate and unregenerate people, born again and hypocrites until the end.

But one day the judge of the earth will pull up the weeds and throw them into the fire. Separate the wicked from the righteous and there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. One day, at the end of the race of life, there will be only two places where mankind can go, either the kingdom of heaven or the world of eternal darkness.

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But please notice this parable and all of the last few parables in Matthew 13 are directed not at the crowds but at the disciples. He sounding the alarm to people like you and me. Its not a practise run, this is the real thing. The building is going to be burnt to the ground, unless you get out. Don't think this is a false alarm. Don't say this is directed to someone else. It's told to you & me. Run the race of faith with perseverance. Keep looking to the finishing line. Hell is real. Heaven is real. Make sure you make it to the very end. Because do you notice there is

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#### 4. A crowd watching the race.

*"When Jesus had finished these parables, he moved on from there. Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. "Where did this man get this wisdom & these miraculous powers?" they asked. 55 "Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon & Judas? 56 Aren't all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" 57 And they took offense at him.*

Theres a choice. Some will hear the parables of Jesus and the Satan will blind its message to them. It will be concealed from them. They will not honour Jesus. They will not have faith in Jesus. And so, they will not escape the judgement of Jesus on that very last day. While others will understand what Jesus is saying to them today. The parables will reveal God's truth to them. They will have ears to hear & they will be like the good steward of Jesus last parable.

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*"Have you understood all these things?" Jesus asked. "Yes," they replied. He said to them, "Therefore, every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old." God's followers will see the treasure in the OT and will listen to its words and teach it faithfully to others. But they will also know that it points to its fulfilment in Jesus in the NT. As Spurgeon once remarked, just as every road in England leads to London, so every Old Testament passage leads us to Jesus. So, we are to learn the truth of the law, the prophets and the writings in the OT and see how they help us understand who Jesus is even more.*

Slide 24

Friends, that means our job as Christians and runners of the race of life, is to keep learning about Jesus and to keep pointing others to the new and old treasures that are found in Jesus. We start the race leaving everything aside to follow Jesus. We patiently keep running the race even when the world and even the Church seems full of weeds and we begin to wonder how we will make it to the very end. But we keep our

eyes on the end, the great day of judgement and look to Jesus to help us to finish the race. He is after all the author and perfecter of our faith.

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One of my favourite stories is that of Helmut Thielicke who was a German theologian when Hitler came to power. Because he was outspoken in his criticism of Hitler, he was removed from his uni post & sent to a small town where he began pastoring a very small church.

He says that when he became a pastor, he decided to have his first midweek Bible study. For he held high hopes for making an impact in the church, and on his community, but he was extremely disappointed when only three people came to his Bible study: Two elderly ladies and an elderly man. He says as he sat looking at these three elderly people, outside the church he could hear the marching of the battalions of Hitler youth who'd swore their allegiance the Third Reich.

In that moment he wondered about the future of the Christian faith, as it seemed that the faith was dying while the Hitler war machine was growing stronger and stronger every day. Was it really true that the kingdoms of this world will one day become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah? Then Pastor Thielicke thought of the story of the mustard seed that grew into a plant. That gave him encouragement and hope, and of course when the dust settled, it was Hitler's kingdom that fell, not God's kingdom. The kingdom of might and force it didn't last, but the Kingdom of grace continued to grow. In effect those three elderly people meeting as a Bible Study were stronger than the armies of Hitler just out the door.

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Do we believe that? I do! So, give your all up for Jesus. Don't despair at the state of the world or the church, keep your eyes on the last day & keep running the race of life for him.

## Song – Take my life <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-7L6r7FJ7LM>

### Verse 1

Take my life and let it be  
Consecrated Lord to Thee  
Take my moments and my days  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise

At Thy feet its treasure store  
Take myself and I will be  
Ever only all for Thee  
Ever only all for Thee

### Verse 2

Take my voice and let me sing  
Always only for my King  
Take my lips and let them be  
Filled with messages from Thee

### Verse 3

Take my silver and my gold  
Not a mite would I withhold  
Take my intellect and use  
Every pow'r as Thou shalt choose

### Chorus

Take my hands and let them move  
At the impulse of Thy love  
Take my feet and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for Thee  
Take my love my Lord I pour

### Verse 4

Take my will and make it Thine  
It shall be no longer mine  
Take my heart it is Thine own  
It shall be Thy royal throne

## Benediction

*"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. 32 Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches." (Matthew 13: 31-32)*