

Study Guide - Matthew 13:44-46

How would you best describe “the Kingdom of God” to someone who had never heard of it?

- How is the Kingdom of God an “already reality” and a “not yet reality?”

Matthew 13: 44-46 capture parallel moments when two men encounter an unbelievable opportunity. Read the passage together:

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. ⁴⁶When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

What is captivating and exciting about this parable?

What is the demeanor of these men?

How is joy the engine of change? How might a modern day person judge these men from Luke 13:44-46?

Look at Luke 19:1-9 and discuss some of the parallel ideas as Zacchaeus encounters Jesus.

That treasure is the discovery of a new, greater reality—one that makes their current reality pale in comparison. That treasure is Jesus himself.

As a group unpack this idea: *There is a cost but not a sacrifice*

Who do you know (not in the room) that is “All-In” like this? Explain why. What are some qualities or characteristic that you would like to emulate?

Compare and contrast a joyful response (like the men in this parable) from a dutiful response.

What are some of the common pitfalls of a dutiful Christian response? How can they be dangerous? (For the Non-Christian) Luke 4, Jesus proclaims:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

THERE’s the Joy... how did people respond? Tried to throw him off a cliff.

Guilt and pressure are not ingredients of obedience. Instead of leading with God's law and the requirements of a respectable life, we should be talking about God's treasures first.

Without the joy of the gospel—without encountering the risen Christ— then being moral, giving time and money to the church, serving in a ministry, joining a community group will feel like “dry.” A joyless duty instead of a joyful response.

How is Matthew 10:17-27 one of the most tragic stories in the gospels?

The way of Jesus begins with a joyful discovery!!!

(For the Non-Christian) Implications of finding the treasure (if you have already found the treasure)

JOY

The Apostle Paul is talking to this young church, a motley group of Christians in the city of Ephesus, and he reminds them of

“ As for you, you were **dead in your transgressions** and sins, ²in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh ⁴and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁵But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁶made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁷And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁸in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁹For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

NEW PRECIOUS REALITY

¹⁰For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Do you see? It's like a moment of discovery- before Christ we were paralyzed by our sin, following the wrong ruler, deserving God's wrath...BUT (joy) we have been made a live with Christ (treasure in the filed) we have been saved by grace through a faith that God gives us (pearl of great value)... we are God's handiwork (GREEK? A beautiful work of art fabricated by God)... so then doing good works...selling all to buy the field, to grasp that singular pearl is a joy-filled response

I'll say it again: This joy in the discovery of Jesus causes people to do crazy things and make life-altering decisions that others would say are foolish.

Reordering our view of the gospel

One of the most tragic stories in the gospels- Rich young ruler (he sees it as buying his membership into Jesus' way of life—not worth it). What is he asking with his question? What was he missing?

Application to pursue:

What am I holding on to?

1. Material comfort
2. Track of recognition
3. Anonymity as a follower of Jesus (personal quiet faith). Quite a scene watching someone completely reorder their lives because of Jesus

Open hands, abandonment

1 out of 4 in the parable of the sower flourish in the joy of the gospel.

Our collective response to the gospel

How do I recover my joy?

How do I rearrange

If you are asking... Is it worth it?

Reference Vegas in Prayer time

If you don't matter to God (in your eyes) then you don't matter to anyone

Message Slides

Matthew 13:44-46

Slide 1

Our Father who art in Heaven,
Hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come
Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.

Slide 2: Monty Python and the Holy Grail pic

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/3f0vp4gkfxkna1j/montypyhton-1600x720.jpg?dl=0>

Slide 3:

Matthew 13:44-46 (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. ⁴⁶When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

Slide 4

- Joy is The Engine of Change

Slide 5

Luke 19:1-9 (NIV)

¹Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ²A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

⁵When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” ⁶So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

⁷All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.”

⁸ But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

⁹ Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Slide 6

- Joy is the engine of change.
- The treasure is so valuable that their sacrifice is not really a sacrifice.

Slide 7

Mary Bernard pics

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/bu8ifg2s8vvs0ct/AACEpA-8cIIAkH8CY2ahSt-Ia?dl=0>

Slide 8

- Joy is the engine of change.
- The treasure is so valuable that their sacrifice is not really a sacrifice.
- A joyful response is different from a dutiful response

Slide 9

Exodus 20:2 (NIV)

"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery."

Slide 10:

Luke 4:18-19 (NIV)

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Slide 11:

Ephesian 2:10 (NIV)

¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.