

Parables | July 11-18, 2021

DISCUSSION GUIDE

KEY BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 13:44-46

Icebreaker Questions: What is some activity, experience, or hobby for which you are willing to sacrifice time or money? What do you have to sacrifice? Why is it worth the sacrifice?

Read Matthew 13:44-46

- How do the actions of these two men make you feel? Why did it make sense to them to sell everything to acquire these treasures?
- What was Jesus's point in comparing these treasures with the kingdom of heaven? What makes the kingdom of heaven worthy of a sacrifice of all we have?
- These men found their treasures in different ways, one by accident and one through purposeful search. How do people today become aware of God's kingdom in similar ways? What role do we have in people discovering God's kingdom?

Read Philippians 3:4-8

- A cost/benefit analysis involves comparing the benefits of an action with the costs associated with that action. What is the cost/benefit analysis Paul made in this passage? What did he conclude?
- What are things you have had to count as loss to follow Jesus?
- How has he come through for you when you have given those things up?

Read Matthew 6:31-33

- How does this passage compare with these parables about found treasures?
- Why can we be free from anxiety in a world of need?
- How does this free us to seek God's kingdom?

Application

- What are truths about Jesus and his kingdom that motivate you to continue to pursue him?
- What is something that you have a hard time letting go of that can keep you from fully pursuing him? (even things that are good in and of themselves)
 - What does that cost/benefit analysis look like for you?
 - What would it mean for you to hold up that thing to God with an open hand?

Pray together that you would be willing to let go of anything that keeps you from pursuing Jesus and that you would find satisfaction in a life lived for his kingdom.



PRAYER



CARE



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