

Gospel Life Communities Study Guide

Matthew 13:46-52

The Great Sorting

Welcome back to another season of GLC's! Between now and Easter, we will be working through Matthew chapters 13-16. This section is full of parables, miracles, and more. It should be a great time for our groups.

Here's a short summary of the purpose of the book of Matthew, according to the ESV Study Bible:

Matthew crafted his account to demonstrate Jesus' messianic identity, his inheritance of the Davidic kingship over Israel, and his fulfillment of the promise made to his ancestor Abraham (Matt. 1:1) to be a blessing to all the nations (Gen. 12:1-3). Thus in large part Matthew's Gospel is an evangelistic tool aimed at his fellow Jews, persuading them to recognize Jesus as their long-awaited Messiah. At the same time, the Gospel reveals clearly to Gentiles that salvation through Jesus the Messiah is available to all nations. For Jewish Christians, Matthew's Gospel provides encouragement to stand steadfast amid opposition from their own countrymen, as well as Gentile pagans, secure in the knowledge of their citizenship in God's kingdom.

Our weekly studies will have four parts, following the four categories that we've set for GLC's, and end with prayer.

exploring

we will explore God's word together, looking at the actual words of the passage each week.

digging

we will dig deeper into the word, discussing the context and meaning of the passage.

growing

we will discuss how the passage is applied to our own lives.

going

we will discuss how the passage informs, challenges, and encourages our gospel witness.



exploring

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a **net** that was thrown into the **sea** and gathered fish of **every kind**.⁴⁸ When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad.⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous⁵⁰ and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.”⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

1. Read the passage together. Discuss what “jumps out” of the text to you.
2. Read Matt. 13:48 “**When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad.**” What do these two words “sorting” and “threw away” teach us about who Jesus is?

digging

3. Reread Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43 (the Parable of the Weeds and Wheat) and Matt 13:47–50. What parallels do you see between these parables?
4. Read Rom. 8:15 and 8:23, how do these two verses describe the “Already and not yet” concept? (You can also read 1 Cor. 1:2 and compare it with 1 Thess. 5:23–24).
5. Why was Matthew fascinated with the Kingdom theme? How would you describe the Kingdom of God?

growing

6. What is your understanding of hell? Why do you think Jesus emphasized on hell more than any other writer?
7. What most impacted you personally from this parable?
8. What is your description of hell and heaven? How does this description challenge you and encourage you?

going



9. Considering the warning about eternal damnation in verses 47-50, what responsibility do we have as Christians? Read verses 51-52
 10. How can we persuade people to repent from their sins and put their trust in Jesus?
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Pray “Kingdom Prayers”

Kingdom prayers are prayers that don't only focus on the immediate need, but also on God's glory. For example, if someone has a sore knee instead of just praying "God, please heal Betty's knee", you would pray something like "God, please heal Betty's knee so that she can continue to serve you and your people; so that she can continue attend worship services pain free and give you glory for your healing hand." See the difference?

Some ideas of what to pray for:

- Each other's needs/requests
- King Road's ministries, missionaries, members, and pastors
- Opportunities to share the gospel

