

Gospel Life Communities Study Guide

Matthew 13:44-46

What Is Jesus Worth?

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

Matthew 13:44-46 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, 46 who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

1. Read the passage together. Discuss what “jumps out” of the text to you.

digging

2. “Kingdom of heaven” is a big theme in Matthew 13. Discuss what attributes the parables point to when Jesus says “the kingdom of heaven is like...” in the different parables. Come up with a list of attributes about the Kingdom that Jesus is describing in this chapter.

growing

3. Are you finding joy in following Christ? If yes, what does your joy look like? If not, what hinders your joy? Discuss, and pray for each other.
4. In the sermon, Pastor Paul equated “the kingdom of heaven” to following Jesus. This is based on Jesus’s words in Matthew when Jesus’s ministry begins and He says “Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!” If that’s the case, what does it mean to follow Jesus? (See Philippians 3:7-11, Matt. 7:21-23, Matt. 12:46-50)

going

5. How does your joy or lack thereof affect your gospel witness?
6. What ‘valuables’ in our society do you think people would be least likely to want to give up for Jesus? Discuss.
7. Should we shy away from talking about certain subjects as we share the gospel? Why or why not? (For help, read 1 Corinthians 1:18-25)



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

