

Sermon Discussion – 12 May 2024

Read Matthew 13:44-46

Getting Started *Sharing from personal experience*

We'll begin with two questions...the answers to both may be the same.

What was your most treasured possession when you were a child? Why did you treasure it?
What is the most valuable thing you have ever found? What was it?

Observation *Discovering the context*

As you read the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus talks a lot about worrying about the things of this world. Jesus calls for His followers first priorities not to be food, shelter, and clothing, but the Kingdom of God. This is a radical call. This doesn't mean that we don't pay any attention to our basic needs, but it means that our primary concern is God's kingdom.

Read Matthew 6:25-33.

- What is Jesus saying here? What does it mean to seek God's kingdom first?
- Can you give an example of how you've sought the kingdom first?
- What can you do to help alleviate your concern for the things of this world, and care more about things of eternal value?

Interpretation *Discovering the meaning*

1. What is the significance of the hidden treasure and the pearl of great value in the parables? How do these symbols represent the kingdom of heaven and its value?
2. Discuss the actions of the man who finds the hidden treasure. Why do you think he sells everything he has to buy the field? What does this reveal about his understanding of the treasure's worth?
3. How does the concept of joyful sacrifice play out in these parables? In what ways does the joy of possessing the treasure or the pearl surpass the sacrifice made to obtain them?
4. Reflect on the cost that the King was willing to pay for us, as mentioned in Hebrews 12:1-2. How does Jesus' sacrifice on the cross demonstrate his love and commitment to us? How does this impact our understanding of the value of the kingdom of heaven?

5. In light of these parables, how would you describe the joy and satisfaction found in knowing Christ and experiencing the kingdom of heaven? How does this joy surpass any temporary pleasures or possessions of this world?

Application *Putting knowledge into practice*

- Consider the idea that the kingdom of heaven is worth losing everything for. How does this perspective challenge common notions of value and worth in society? How can we apply this principle in our own lives?
- Memorise Hebrews 12:1-2,
“Let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”