

Matthew 13:44-58

Section 1: 13:44-46 – The Kingdom of Heaven is Valuable

Have you ever found something valuable? I remember as a kid finding arrow heads. Man, we thought those things were awesome. And once one was found, the search was on. Finding something cool or valuable can be a lot of fun for a kid. As an adult I remember getting a few books from my grandmother that I believed to be valuable. Now the books would only be valuable to family. My grandmother took me over to her bookshelf and gave me three books that had been in her family for a few generations. Two were Bibles in German and a songbook in English. All three were from the 1800s!

Jesus uses two parables here to highlight how valuable the Kingdom of God is to believers. How valuable? So valuable that we should be willing to give up everything. When was the last time you considered the truth that God has called you to give up everything for Him? What is meant by “give up everything” is that you are submitting EVERYTHING to His glory and will. Our personal preferences should be no more. Our personal goals should be no more. Everything we say and do should find its source in God not in ourselves. We are not in charge; we are slaves to God in Christ. Which means that we ALWAYS submit to God.

Application

There should be no such thing as a half-hearted Christian. We are to be “all in” all the time. There are four basic characteristics of an all in Christian. *These are just four common characteristics, there are a lot more that can be listed.

- (1) Consistently Studies and applies the Bible
- (2) Faithfully Prays
- (3) Loves and serves the Church
- (4) Shares the Gospel

Discussion Questions

- ❖ How valuable is your relationship with God? How valuable is that relationship based upon your actions?
- ❖ Do you consider yourself “all in” with your faith? Why or why not?
- ❖ List the four characteristics of an “all in” Christian from easiest for you to hardest for you.

Section 2: 13:47-50 – Eternity is Real

Jesus uses a fishing illustration to remind the disciples of the reality of eternity. This would have been a very easy illustration for the disciples to follow because most of them were professional fisherman. And any good fisherman can tell the difference between good fish and bad fish.

Jesus again is reminding us about the reality that all people will stand before God and be divided into two groups. Both groups will face eternity but the experience of eternity will be vastly different. Believers will experience the love of God and the nonbelievers will experience the wrath of God.

Application

It's easy to see people through the lens of the world's ideology. But we must remember that there are only two types of people: saved and lost. Those in Christ have the seal of the Holy Spirit and will spend eternity serving, enjoying and worshipping God. Those that reject the gospel will spend eternity experiencing the wrath of God.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ How do you typically classify people? (for example: gender, age, education, job, etc.)
- ❖ Why is a Biblical view of eternity important?

Section 3: 13:51-52 – Be Generous with the Gospel

What are we bringing out of the storeroom? The gospel! We have a treasure that we SHOULD be sharing with everyone. The Greek word for “brings out” literally means “to distribute widely”. Think of our responsibility in light of the illustration. What are the responsibilities of the “owner of the house”? He is to make sure the family and workers are cared for, provide for and equipped. In light of the owner’s responsibilities, what are our responsibilities? I believe that is summed up in Matthew 28:19-20. We are to make disciples of all nations.

Application

As a believer you have an incredible treasure. The gospel is not a message we hide away, it is a message we proclaim. When we refuse to share the gospel what does it say about us? Here are a few things it implies: we believe that only certain people deserve salvation, we don’t love God enough to be faithful or we aren’t really saved.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ How generous are you with sharing your testimony with others?

Section 4: 13:53-58 – Jesus Reveals the Heart

Jesus is receiving little to no respect in His home town. How are they showing disrespect? Here are three ways they are showing disrespect: (1) they questioned His wisdom, (2) they questioned His power and (3) they questioned His right to speak into their lives. We are in danger of questioning these same things today.

(1) They Questioned His Wisdom

God has graciously given us His Word. How often do we trust God’s Word over the world’s wisdom? Or even better, how often do we trust God’s Word over our personal emotions and desires? It’s one thing to say your trust God, it’s another thing to act on God’s Word rather than your emotions or personal desires. Actions prove whether or not you trust His wisdom.

(2) They Questioned His Power

God will work all things for His glory in His timing. Yet time and time again we worry, complain and take matters into our own hands. Patiently waiting for God seems to be extremely hard for us and I think it’s because we live in an instant gratification culture. We have fast food, drive-thru pharmacy, high-speed internet and next day delivery. We need to ask ourselves; do we truly believe that God has the power cause all things to turn out for His glory?

(3) They Questioned His Right to Speak into Their Lives

This is probably the hardest part of following Christ, changing. We must recognize that we have “not arrived”. We are works-in-progress. Which means we must be constantly changing. How do we know what and how to change? We read the Bible AND apply it.

Application

It’s easy for believers to question God from time to time. However, just because it’s common doesn’t mean it’s acceptable. We have to learn how to walk by faith. Trusting the Word of God is key to a fruitful relationship with our Heavenly Father. But how can you trust in His Word if you don’t know what His Word says? Every Christian is expected to be an expert in the Word of God.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ Do you ever question God’s wisdom or power?
- ❖ When was the last time you read a truth in the Bible and changed how you conduct yourself based upon that truth?