

The Upside-Down Kingdom
Two Parables of Similarities of the Kingdom

Read Matt. 13:44-46

Parable 1: The man was not looking for treasure and found it by accident. Because of his joy at his discovery, he sold all to obtain the treasure.

Parable 2: Merchant was looking for a fine pearl, finds it and sells all to obtain it.

Three things about God's Kingdom in these 2 parables:

1. Kingdom is hidden; not everyone finds it. It is not hidden from those who want it. It is discovered by those whose hearts are prepared to receive it.

* Describe a time when you or someone you know discovered the Kingdom because they wanted more and finally found it:

* What was their response?

2. There is nothing of greater value than God's Kingdom. We really don't give up anything to follow God; what we gain is infinitely greater than what we lose or "give up".

Read Phil. 3:8

Read Mark 8:34-37

* How is this true?

3. The Kingdom of God brings great joy and satisfaction. We realize what we gain is worth the complete sacrifice, which really isn't a sacrifice after all, considering God gives us "Glory for garbage".

Read Matt. 6:33-34

* Where do we usually seek satisfaction and why doesn't it satisfy?

Three things about the people in these parables:

1. They saw the Kingdom, believed, and left all behind to obtain it.

* Describe a moment when this became clear to you:

2. Beauty and Joy motivated them to enter the Kingdom. They said, "I want that, I'm all in, no matter the consequences, no matter the cost, no going back."

* What on this earth are we holding onto for security? What holds us back from being all in for Jesus?

3. Some are predisposed to see the Kingdom. Others don't see the value or they feel the cost isn't worth the gain.

READ Luke 9:57-62

* What excuses do we give to Jesus for not being all in for Him and His Kingdom?

We seek a "functional savior", something or someone who we think will save us.

* List some of these:

* Why do we seek after them instead of Jesus and His Kingdom?

Problems with "functional saviors":

1. These will always fail
2. The more we obtain of them, the more we are dissatisfied with life.
3. They detract from the real Savior.

* How is Jesus, the only Savior, the opposite of these false saviors?