



Why Settle for What You Can See?

Week of September 11, 2016

These discussion questions can be used the week following the message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap:

Read Matthew 13:34-35; 44-46

Settle. It is an option. We can settle for what we can see—like the things of this world. Or we can choose. We can choose the Kingdom we can't see. Some people won't believe what they can't see...yet they know that music exists, and microwaves, and feelings. Even though we can't physically see the Kingdom now, we are in it as soon as we follow Jesus. Jesus says we must *think* Kingdom first and last. The Kingdom unseen is worth more than the world we see and God wants us to have it! How do we get the Kingdom? Just like the farmer who sold all he had to buy the field where he found the treasure, we let go. We sell out. We let go of the world and we sell out our lives completely to Jesus. Only then we will begin our journey into God's amazing Kingdom.

Pray

Jesus, we are people who are drawn to the tangible temporary happiness of this world. Although we can easily see the world, we need you to open our eyes to be able to see your kingdom. Please open our minds to giving ourselves completely to you, to give you our captive attention, and recognize our deep disappointments in the world. Lead us to a desperate commitment to you and your Kingdom.

Getting Started

- On September 11, 2001, the operator who took the first “Twin Tower” 911 call had an immediate, unbelieving response. Without hesitation she said, “Say what?” What were your first thoughts and words on hearing the news?
- In what ways have you felt stuck or worthless and therefore drawn to the easily-seen world?

Listening Deeply

1. Bible drill challenge: Matthew 13:34 says that Jesus speaking in parables was a fulfillment of scripture. Where is the verse, “I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world.”?
2. Read Matthew 13:45-46. What does this parable mean to you?
3. Describe some ways that the Kingdom of God is worth more than the world.
4. What happens if we try to keep the world while trying to follow God too? Share an example of when this happened in your life. What did God teach you?
5. Mark 8:34 makes it clear that the cross is the key to the Kingdom - the cross of Jesus and the cross we bear (Mark 8:34). When we are part of the Kingdom, how does the cross affect our daily lives?
6. What deep disappointments have you seen in your life? How have they affected your choice to be part of the Kingdom?
7. Why does a radical change occur when we give our captured attention to Jesus? What has that change looked like for you?

Living Wide in Jesus

When you sell out completely to Jesus, when you recognize your deep disappointments in the world, when you give your captured attention to Jesus, and then have a desperate commitment to God, you will be able to understand what living in the Kingdom means. When you give up being in charge, God's treasures will be revealed. The challenge each day is to put God in charge, acknowledging that you belong to him. This will put you on an amazing path toward fully living as you never imagined possible. If you don't know Jesus, now is the time to learn who he is. If you do know Jesus, it's time to evaluate if you've given your life to him, *completely*. Is there anything in the world that is looking more attractive than the Kingdom of God? Confess it to Jesus in prayer and finally let the world go.