

Journey Through the New Testament

Matthew 10-14

Series: God's Assumptions

"At What Price?"

1-20-19

Introduction

In this week's reading of Matthew 10-14, Jesus made numerous references to "the kingdom of heaven" and offered parables to explain what the kingdom of heaven is like—*someone who sowed good seed in his field, yeast which a woman took and hid in a bushel of wheat flour, a net that people threw into the lake*. It is intriguing to hear Jesus' explanation of the parables and to learn about God's kingdom. However, hearing God's truth is one thing, living according to kingdom ways is another matter. For what does God's kingdom require? Everything that we have to offer.

The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure that somebody hid in a field, which someone else found and covered up. Full of joy, the finder sold everything and bought that field. Matthew 13:44

Opening Discussion

1. Why did you decide to participate in this "Journey Through the New Testament?"
2. What has surprised you in this experience so far?

The kingdom of heaven is like...

Bible Study Matthew, Chapters 11,12, 13 (CEB) Review the headings in each of the chapters and scan the verses. Use the guide below for discussion of the kingdom of heaven.

What?

1. As Jesus traveled around the Galilee, what people did he encounter?
2. What miracles, images and stories did Jesus use to illustrate what "the kingdom of heaven is like?" (Refer to Mt. 12:28, 13:24-52)
3. What flak did Jesus encounter as a result of his miracles and teachings about the kingdom? (Mt. 12:1, 9-10,14, 24, 38 13:10, 54-57)

So What?

1. So what conclusions can be drawn about the values of the kingdom of heaven and the values of this earthly kingdom? Use examples from the text. (Least and greatest, Repentance, The weak and infirmed...)
2. So what do these teachings reveal about the power of the kingdom of God?
3. So, according to the parables, how are we to live as a disciple of Jesus?
4. So, if we are a follower of Jesus, in which kingdom do we belong?
5. If we say we are “Christ followers,” what assumptions does God have about us, the kingdom, and the way we live?
6. What flak might we encounter as a result of kingdom living? Explain.

Now What?

1. Jesus asked the disciples, “Have you understood all these things?” “Yes,” they replied. (Mt. 13:51) Now that you have been instructed on the ways of God’s kingdom, what do you understand more clearly?
2. Having examined these teachings of Jesus, what challenges arise?
3. What will you be grappling with? Sacrifice? Values? Commitment? Trust...)
4. In what way is growing a faith a process?

Closing Reflection

*Lord,
I believe
my life is touched by you,
that you want something for me,
and of me.
Give me ears
to hear you,
eyes
to see the tracing of your finger,
and a heart
quickened by the motions
of your Spirit.*

Ted Loder, Guerrillas of Grace