

SUNDAY HANDOUT FOR DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION - July 12

Delirious Joy (Matthew 13:44-46)

So much comes at us each day that leads to distraction and anxiety. Short bits of information, disjointed and unrelated, fill our minds and tell us what we should run after and what will satisfy. As a result, it's easy to feel spiritually disoriented, deflated or numb. In Matthew 13:44-46, Jesus' parables break through all that noise with beautiful simplicity. They reveal the Kingdom of Heaven not as some distant, abstract reality we're to keep at arm's length, but as a treasure beyond compare – one that produces delirious joy, wholehearted devotion and glad surrender.

1. Delirious joy (Matthew 13:44)

2. Wholehearted devotion (Matthew 13:45-46)

3. Glad Surrender

QUESTIONS (Pray, read the passage and pick 4-5 questions to discuss. Trust the Holy Spirit to guide.)

1. Read Matthew 13:44-46. What similarities and differences do you notice between the two parables? What do they reveal about the Kingdom of Heaven?
2. Both people in the parables willingly give up everything they own to obtain the treasure. Why is the emphasis on their joy important? What does it teach us about following Jesus?
3. The man in the first parable immediately sells everything he owns out of "delirious joy" rather than grim duty. How does shifting our view of discipleship from a "painful sacrifice" to a "joyful reevaluation" change how we read Jesus' radical demands?
4. When we forget the value of something we can find ourselves either treating it poorly or neglecting it altogether. What can we do to remind ourselves of the surpassing value of the Kingdom of Heaven? What practices do you have in your own life to help you?
5. Jesus isn't calling us to simply make him one priority among many, but to treasure him above everything else. What is the difference between admiring Jesus and truly treasuring Him?
6. Miroslav Volf is quoted as saying: "The main temptation is not to reject God outright, but to embrace God as something secondary and use God as an instrument for our own ends." In what ways do we push Jesus to the perimeter or sidelines? How can we guard against that?
7. How does the gospel - the truth that Jesus gave up everything to redeem us - deepen our delight in him? How does remembering his sacrifice fuel joyful obedience instead of reluctant obedience?
8. Is there anything God may be inviting you to surrender because it is competing with your love for Christ? What would trusting him in that area look like this week? Looking back on the sermon, what is one truth or challenge you want to carry with you this week?

Do you have a heavy, tired or numb heart? Ask Jesus to restore your joy in him. Pray for eyes to see the surpassing value of the Kingdom of Heaven (Jesus' saving reign and loving presence).