

## **Week 13 – Parables of the Present Kingdom – Part II (Review)**

### **Day 1: Overview**

#### **Read Matthew 13:44-46**

1. What did you learn from the teaching last night (if you didn't hear the message, listen to it online at [trinitygrace.org](http://trinitygrace.org))?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. From your notes, what errors have been made in the past when interpreting these parables? Why are they problematic? Have you made these mistakes as well?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What is the overall meaning of these two parables? How are they similar to the previous parables of the present kingdom? How are they different?

### **Day 2: How Do You Value The Kingdom?**

#### **Read Matthew 6:19-34, 10:34-39**

Use the following scenario for today's questions:

A man stops you on the street today and begins to tell you that he knows what tomorrow will bring. He describes both trifles, such as the weather and what you would wear, and things of great significance, like what the stock market would do, what crimes would be committed, and even who would live and who would die. Then, just as suddenly as he came, he walked away never to be seen again.

1. If you didn't trust the man at all, would anything he told you make you change how you lived today and tomorrow?

2. Now, if you thought there was maybe some truth to what the man told you, how would you change your normal behavior? Would you invest in his prediction of the stock market's biggest winner? How much? Would you warn those that were in danger? How serious of a warning would you give them? What else would you do, and to what degree would you do it?
  
3. Finally, if you completely trusted the man, what would change? Would you sell or leverage everything you owned to invest it in the market? Would you do everything you could to warn those of any impending danger? What would you do differently?
  
4. Which of the three trust levels from the previous questions best describes your trust and belief in God? Is your life not different at all, are you completely "invested" in God, or is it somewhere in-between? Are you holding some things back for your own security? Are you sharing with others what God has both given and revealed to you?

### **Day 3: Sense of Loss**

#### **Read Philippians 3:1-4:1**

1. In today's text, what does Paul say about loss? Do the worldly things that he has gained have any value to him anymore? What does he hold as valuable? How were his values changed by Christ?
  
2. In yesterday's passages (Matthew 6:19-34, 10:34-39), Jesus took things of great value to us; wealth, treasures, physical needs, family, and even ourselves; and said they are worthless compared to the value of Christ. How was he challenging our sense of loss regarding these things? How was he working to set a new standard, the true standard, of value?

3. Last week you read about the rich young man (Mark 10:17-31). Review this story again, but look at it from a sense of loss perspective. Did the rich young man have a sense of loss? What was it? How did it reveal his values, his heart?
4. Are there things of this world that you are hanging onto because you feel your loss would be too great to let them go? List them below. Now, remind yourself of the gospel, of what Christ did for you in his life, death and resurrection. Remind yourself of the infinite value of the kingdom of God, in which Christ has prepared a place for you. With this perspective, what real value do these worldly things hold for you?

#### **Day 4: Reflection – Part I**

##### **Read Psalms 78**

This week marks the halfway point of our study on the parables. We'll take the next two days to reflect on what we have learned so far. Look back at the previous weeks' questions to remind yourself of where we have been and what you have learned.

1. What have these parables taught you about discipleship?
2. What have these parables taught you about sin and forgiveness?
3. What have these parables taught you about justification?

