

Be Reformed – Open the bible: study, dig and ask what the main point of the passage is

Be Charismatic – Expect the Holy Spirit: ask God to speak, minister, build up and lead us to maturity

Be Community – Love God's people: share vulnerably, apply, pray and build each other up

Be Missional – Win the world: apply lessons to outreach, make content accessible to non-Christians

Matthew 13:44-58

44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, 46 who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

47 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. 48 When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. 49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous 50 and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

51 "Have you understood all these things?" They said to him, "Yes." 52 And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for

the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

53 And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there, 54 and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works? 55 Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? 56 And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" 57 And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household." 58 And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.

ALSO READ

Study Guide 3 July 2011 – The Fruit of Faith



Summary

The man who found the treasure and the merchant who found the pearl recognized the value of what they found and they gladly sacrificed everything to lay hold of it. Finding the Kingdom of Heaven is just like that.

Faith is not just believing in God, but faith is a denial of everything else. True obedience is the obedience of faith. What then do we believe? That God is sovereign? That He loves people? That Jesus is the only hope for the world? That this world is coming to an end? How do we respond to these things in faith?

Faith bears eternal fruit. Many people flock to the kingdom, but there will be a separation between those who have received the gift of righteousness and faith and those who come before God for other reasons.

Faith bears immediate fruit. Just as Jesus refused to perform many miracles for those who do not have faith, He delights to show His power and make us bear fruit in the here and now.

Key points

God is pleased to give us the full lavishness of the fruit of faith.

Questions

>>How sensitive are we to sin?

>>Describe heaven. What have we read or heard it is like? How accurate do we think these descriptions are?

>>Compare the obedience that comes from faith and love and the obedience that comes from legalism and fear.

>>What do we believe about what God has said?

How does what we believe affect how we live?

>>What things attract people to the kingdom of God? Which of these are founded in faith?

Final thoughts

Let us consider everything we have and are worth sacrificing in exchange for the Kingdom of Heaven and the Lord who has brought His kingdom to earth.