

**Sermon:** Joyfully Pursuing the Kingdom of God  
**Series:** *Pictures of Disciple-Making*

**Scripture:** Matthew 13:44-46  
**Date:** May 16, 2021

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**OBSERVATION** -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

**INTERPRETATION** -- Answer these questions together:

**1) What does this passage teach us about God?**

a) When you hear the phrase “Kingdom of heaven” what comes to mind? How would you define it?

**2) What does this passage teach us about us?**

a) What can you see yourself valuing in life more than you value Christ? OR...what identity are you tempted to embrace other than identity in Christ?

b) Can you think of anything that you have had to give up or are actively giving up for the Kingdom of Heaven? How has God sustained and even blessed you in this “selling of what you had?”

**3) What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?**

a) Think about the big idea of these two parables – when we give up everything for Christ we gain everything in Christ. What are you looking forward to getting back from God in the future Kingdom of Heaven (see Rom. 8:18-25)? In the present spiritual Kingdom of Heaven in your heart how have you seen God satisfy your desires and transform you in Christ (see Rom. 8:26-30)?

**APPLICATION**

a) What needs to change in your life in order for you to grow as a disciple of Jesus, or for you to prioritize making disciples of Jesus?

**FIGHTER VERSES: Galatians 4:4-7.**

**PRAYER**

- Praise God for his kingdom of grace and mercy made ours by the cross of Christ.
- Repent of any ways you have sought your own kingdom over the Kingdom of Christ.
- Ask God to give you joy that comes with pursuing the Kingdom of God.
- Thank God for the treasure of identity in Christ and his love.