

# MATTHEW



## STUDY GUIDE

### Introduction:

I've been thinking about the power of advertising lately. It is remarkable. Every one of us has been convinced many times in life that, to be happy, or live a more satisfying life, we need to buy something that has been marketed to us. Take a second and consider, **When have you been successfully marketed to? When did an advertisement or campaign capture your attention and convince you to buy? Why do you think that marketing was successful, what about it moved you to act?**

### Text: Matthew 13:24-43

In this passage, we read three parables. Each of them presents an aspect of the Kingdom that is distinct from the way our world works. As Matthew said, the Kingdom “reveals what has been hidden since the beginning of creation.” Human history demonstrates a few ideas that have *not* been hidden. We believe kingdoms are built through the glamor of wealth, the allure of power, and the achievement of victory. These are all the same things advertisers use to try and convince us to buy their products! But these are not the values of the Kingdom of God. In these three parables, we get a different vision of an entirely different kind of Kingdom. In the Kingdom of God, we:

- **Replace power over others with trust in God.**
- **Reject the sparkle of wealth and practice humility instead.**
- **Make small efforts to achieve dramatic change.**

Which of these parables was most meaningful, insightful, or challenging to you and why?

### YOUR MOVE

At the end of the sermon, we considered a few heavy questions:

- Who in the Church do you despise? Might God be calling you to let them be and trust *him* to be judge?
- How much does your hope in the Kingdom depend on the outcome of the next U.S. Presidential election? Could it be that you believe the old idea that God needs worldly power to build his Kingdom?
- Are you making disciples? This was Jesus' command. He focused on 12. A tiny, some might even say insignificant, number. Yet, if we all did that, it would undoubtedly transform the world. Are you committing your life to making disciples?

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What practical way will you seek to put Jesus' teachings about the Kingdom of God into practice in your life today? This week? This year?