

MATTHEW



STUDY GUIDE

Introduction

What is one of the most meaningful projects you have ever been part of? During the sermon, here is the definition of joy that we considered, “Joy is exerting yourself with great effort – even to the point of sacrifice or suffering – for the sake of something deeply meaningful.” Then, we also considered that the best indicator of how meaningful something is how many people it benefits, with a particular emphasis on benefit to those who are most hurting or vulnerable. Considering that, what are some of the most meaningful things you have ever been part of? Share a few stories.

Text: Matthew 13:44-58

Chapter 13 is often referred to as “The Sermon of Kingdom Parables.” The aspect of the kingdom we focused on this week was “Evil and Righteousness.” We defined righteousness in three ways:

1. Salvation by Grace
2. Personal Ethics
3. Public Justice

Another way to phrase the same idea would be to say that the kingdom is personal (though never private), social, and global. What struck you most in thinking about Kingdom Righteousness through this three-part lens?

Which of these would you say is the most familiar, or you are most likely to think of? Which of these stretched your understanding of the kingdom and why?

YOUR MOVE

The final idea in the sermon came from the two parables about treasure. They emphasized this simple idea, “Once you understand the kingdom, you are eager – even *joyful* – to sacrifice greatly to live in the kingdom.

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?