

GBC Discipleship RESOURCE



The Kingdom of Heaven is Like...

Week 04 | **The Tension Between Cost and Gain (Matthew 13:44-46)**

*For a brief overview of why (and how) to engage in each of these practices, you can read the **Guideline For Growing** on our website.*

<https://www.gyneaabaptist.org.au/growing/pages/guideline-for-growing>

What is a Discipleship Menu?

A discipleship menu is a selection of discipleship activities to engage in to continue the conversation that begins on Sunday throughout the week. The aim is to extend our interaction as a community of faith around activities that help us follow Jesus every single day. The activities vary from week to week (though there are some standard activities) and you are encouraged to do as many as you find helpful (like a menu; you don't need to eat everything on it!). Do them on your own (God and you), with a couple of friends (you and a few), or in a Life Group (you and a crew). The important thing is to do a few!

GBC Sermon Podcast and GBC Big Three Podcast

Don't forget you can review this week's sermon on the GBC Sermon Podcast. The sermon is usually uploaded by Monday afternoon. You can also listen in to the GBC Big Three podcast; a weekly podcast where Matt, Jess, and Marc sit down and continue the conversation by engaging in three big questions raised by the congregation about the sermon. The GBC Big Three comes out on Wednesdays.

Overview

We live within a world of economy. We exchange and participate in transactions on a daily basis, in the big and in the small. Not merely trading in money for goods, but we exchange in our emotional, relationship and spiritual capacity. We trade in our time, gifts, and abilities. This is why the parable of the hidden treasure, and the priceless pearl is so significant for us. It is a parable that speaks of an experience we all know too well, the tension between cost and gain.

The reality is, there will always be a cost to following Jesus, the question is what will be our perception of that cost. When the Kingdom of Heaven is only ever a notion, a concept that we speculate about, our focus will always remain on the cost we pay in order to gain the treasure. But when it is a reality for us, when the Kingdom is something we've seen, felt and tasted, even in the smallest of measurements, then our purpose because seeking out more of this treasure.

And where do we find it? It's not in buildings but in people. This valuable treasure, this priceless pearl, abundant in number and scattered throughout the world, exists in the hearts and lives of every person we meet. When we challenge ourselves out of our comfort zones, and step into another person's experience and perspective of the Kingdom, we get to know this treasure in

new ways, keeping it a reality within our own lives. We need to be purposeful seekers, looking for the hidden treasure in the everywhere we go, in everything we do, in everyone we meet.

Passages to Read

We believe that the Word of God is living and active and that reading and reflecting on it is one way we encounter God. As you read, we encourage people to ask a set of simple questions: What stands out to you? What questions do you have? What is the invitation of God to you? Who can you tell?

The readings this week explore the openness that Jesus demonstrated to meet with people where they were at. Regardless of their story or whether he agreed with their choices, Jesus always had a heart for the one. He seeks out the treasure in every life, and unearthed it in his interactions with them. We are all called to be Christ like, so spend some time reflecting on the example of Jesus.

- Matthew 18:12-14
- John 4:1-26
- Mark 5:24-34
- Luke 19:1-10
- Luke 7:36-50

Hunting for Treasure

This parable invites us to seek out the hidden treasure that is scattered within our everyday lives. This purposeful searching can simply start with prayer. Take some time to be still before God, asking only for a name. Who in your life, within your family, at work, through social circles, is God calling you to meet? Where has God placed some hidden treasure within the people in your life. Seek out that name.

Should God reveal someone to you, take a step towards connecting with them. A quick message, a phone call to check in, a time to meet for coffee. Hear their story, learn from their experience, and seek out the treasure God has placed in their lives. Where is the Kingdom of Heaven working in that person?

A Prayer to Pray

Spend some time in prayer, reflecting on the cost of following Jesus. Bring those things to the front of your mind and ask the Holy Spirit to transform your perspective of them, that you only see the gain of the Kingdom rather than the price to be paid.