

Sermon based Discussion  
Matthew 13:44\_58  
'Responding to Treasure'  
2/25/24

The weekly qualifier:

These questions are not meant to be answered exhaustively. The aim is to foster further discussion on God's Word which is rich, full, and inexhaustible. If you only get through one question, yet the conversation is robust and warming to your soul, well done!

1. Do you agree with the premise that every one of us is after riches? Why or why not? Share some examples of earthly riches you have or have seen others pursue in this life.
2. Looking again at verses 44-46, have you been more of a stumbler or a searching in your relationship of God? When you found or searched and discovered Jesus and His Gospel, were you immediately aware of God's leading in your life up to that point? Looking back at your own journey of faith, what was the point in which you saw the value of Christ and His Kingdom?
3. The value of treasures and pearls are obvious, we can easily assign great worth to God. However, why do we often struggle as Christians to live as though Jesus is more precious than anything? What are our competing realities and feelings? How do we come to renew value after a dry spell?
4. The parable of the net in verses 47-50 creates a measure of urgency in our lives. Why is it easy to push off the teaching of us being held accountable at the end of the age? Do you find it difficult to believe or talk about the realities of judgment? Why or why not?
5. The response to Jesus and His Kingdom was stark, belief or rejection. In verse 51, why do you think the disciples answered so quickly that they understood Jesus' teachings? What are marks of grace we can see in their response even if they made mistakes after this time?
6. What is it about family that is so hard in sharing the gospel? Why do we have personal reservation and struggle to speak truth about God to those who know us best?
7. In verse 58, Jesus withheld doing might works because of their unbelief. Thinking of ourselves first, what kinds of categories can there be for Christians who have some sin or unbelief in their life and don't see God at work? Are we willing to admit that not seeing God at work might be because of us? Why might this be an encouragement and a struggle for someone?