Reflecting on "Parables of the Kingdom" Matthew 13:31-33, 44-50 January 14, 2024

DISCUSS

1) **Read Matthew 13:31-32.** Author David Platt explains the message of this parable in this way: "Outwardly, the kingdom expands from an insignificant beginning to an extravagant end." In practical terms, what kingdom promise is Jesus giving to his disciples through this parable?

2) **Read Matthew 13:33.** This parable speaks more of an internal reality for believers. How should the reality of the kingdom of God affect our lives today?

3) **Read Matthew 13:31-33.** What encouragement might come to persecuted believers from the parables of the Mustard Seed and Yeast?

4) **Read Matthew 13:44-46.** What do you seek after with the same energy and focus that the merchant and the man who buys the field? What is something you would truly pay any price to possess?

5) **Read Matthew 6:19-21.** Consider how you spend your time, energy and resources. Based on your lifestyle, how precious is the gospel to you? How can you make the gospel a greater treasure in your life?

6) According to these same verses, how could you use the parables of the Treasure and the Pearl of Great Price to respond to someone who says, "I want to follow Jesus, but I don't want to make drastic changes in my life"?

7) **Read Matthew 13:47-50.** What does the parable of the Net teach us about the final judgment? How does this reality motivate you to invest in the kingdom?