

Discussion Questions



Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. **The Kingdom is a Hidden Treasure** - Like the painting worth \$39 million hanging above a stove, God's kingdom is often right in front of us, but we may not recognize its value.
2. **Value and Response** - The parables in Matthew 13:44-46 focus on two things: recognizing the immense value of God's kingdom and responding by surrendering everything for it.
3. **Joy Precedes Sacrifice** - When we truly understand the value of the kingdom, sacrifice no longer feels like a burden—it becomes an act of joy and worship.
4. **Barriers to Seeing the Kingdom** - People miss the treasure for various reasons: wounds from Christians, false versions of Christianity, pride, unhealed pain, spiritual blindness, or love of sin.
5. **Nothing Earthly Compares** - No amount of worldly success, power, or possessions can be taken into eternity. Only our spirit and our relationship with Christ matter eternally.
6. **No One is Too Far Gone** - The story of Nicky Cruz demonstrates that Christ's love can transform even the hardest heart.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Treasure (15-20 minutes)

1. **The sermon mentioned that "a person's heart is tied to what they value the most."** What are some practical ways we can evaluate what we truly value most in our lives?
2. **Read Matthew 13:44-46 together.** What strikes you most about these two parables? What's the difference between the man who stumbled upon the treasure and the merchant who was actively seeking?

3. **The sermon listed several reasons why people don't see the value of God's kingdom** (wounds from Christians, false Christianity, pride, love of sin, etc.). Which of these barriers do you think is most prevalent in our culture today? Why?

Personal Reflection (15-20 minutes)

4. **The sermon stated, "Without transformation, there is no Christianity."** What does genuine transformation look like in a person's life? Can you share an example of transformation you've witnessed or experienced?
5. **Jesus said in the parable that the man sold "all that he had" for the treasure.** What are some things in your life that compete with God's kingdom for first place in your heart? (Be honest and vulnerable.)
6. **The sermon mentioned that "joy comes before the sacrifice."** Have you experienced this in your walk with Christ? Share a time when following Jesus felt more like joy than sacrifice.

Spiritual Blindness and Recognition (10-15 minutes)

7. **2 Corinthians 4:4 tells us that "the god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers."** How does spiritual blindness manifest in people's lives today? How can we pray for those who cannot yet see the value of the kingdom?
8. **The sermon contrasted cultural reformation with spiritual renewal.** What's the difference? Why is it important for the church to focus on spiritual renewal rather than just cultural change?

Eternal Perspective (10-15 minutes)

9. **The poem shared in the sermon ended with "And now I don't feel so well myself."** How does keeping an eternal perspective change the way we approach our daily lives, careers, and relationships?
10. **Romans 10:10 says, "It is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess**

your faith." Why are both belief and confession necessary? How comfortable are you with verbally sharing your faith?

The Nicky Cruz Story (10 minutes)

11. **David Wilkerson told Nicky Cruz, "You can cut me into a thousand pieces and every piece will still say, Jesus loves you."** What does this kind of fearless love look like in our context today? Who in your life needs to hear that Jesus loves them?
12. **The sermon concluded with "You were designed to worship a God who gave everything in order for you to be in his kingdom."** How does this truth change the way you view your purpose and identity?

Practical Applications

Choose 1-2 of these applications to commit to this week:

Individual Actions

- **Treasure Inventory:** Make a list of the top 5 things you spend your time, money, and energy on. Prayerfully ask God to reveal if any of these have become competing treasures in your heart.
- **Gratitude Practice:** Each day this week, write down one aspect of God's kingdom that you're grateful for (forgiveness, purpose, eternal life, His presence, etc.). Reflect on why each one is valuable to you.
- **Eternal Perspective Check:** When faced with decisions this week, pause and ask, "Will this matter in 120 years?" Let that eternal perspective guide your choices.
- **Share the Treasure:** Identify one person in your life who doesn't know Christ. Pray for them daily and look for an opportunity to share what God's kingdom means to you.

Group Actions

- **Prayer Partners:** Pair up and commit to praying for each other's "competing treasures" and for God to increase your joy in His kingdom.
- **Outreach Opportunity:** Plan a group activity to serve your community and share the gospel (serve at a food bank, host a neighborhood BBQ, visit a nursing home, etc.).
- **Testimony Time:** Next meeting, have 2-3 people share their "before and after" stories—how their lives changed when they discovered the treasure of God's kingdom.

Memory Verse

Matthew 13:44 - "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field."

Closing Reflection Questions

- What is one thing God spoke to you about during this discussion?
- What is one step you will take this week to treasure God's kingdom more?
- How can we pray for you?