

“How to Make Infinite Joy A Reality!”

Matt 13:31-35, 44-46

“Living Out What Lies Within” – A Message Series in James

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There are a thousand tiny discoveries in life... that bring about a little spark of joy.

And then there's infinite joy: That's the _____ (Lk 18:28-29). *What's that worth to you?*

The parables in Matthew 13 provides insight. A parable is a teaching tool with a spiritual truth encrypted in. Those spiritually awakened will _____ to understand and as a result become transformed.

Four parables to explore this morning in Matt 13:31-35, 44-46:

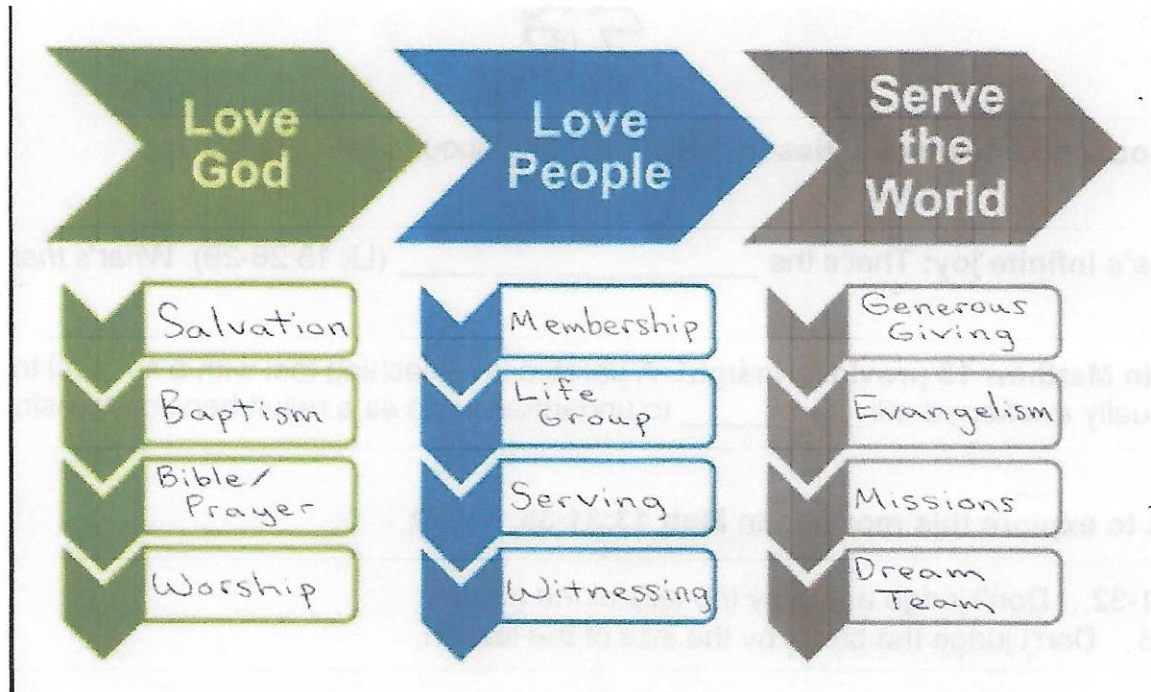
- 1. VV 31-32... Don't judge a tree by the size of the seed.
- 2. VV 33... Don't judge the bread by the size of the leaven.
 - *The point? Don't measure the Kingdom by how small it begins.*
 - *The application? One tiny day out of approx. 30,000 days when the Gospel seed is planted. One tiny church in a not-the-most-desired part of the metropolis... (1 Cor 1:26-29)*
 - "Don't despise small beginnings." (Zech 4:10)
 - "Be faithful in the small things and God will bless you with greater things." (Lk 16:10)
- 3. V 44... The value of the treasure was so much greater...
- 4. VV 45-46... The value of the pearl was also so much greater...
 - *The point? The Kingdom is infinitely more valuable than anything we can possess in life!*
 - *The application? If you're spiritually awakened to the Truth and baptized in the Holy Spirit, then you would gladly give whatever the Lord requires of you at any point on your life journey!*
 - "...to be my disciple must deny themselves, take up their cross daily and follow me." (Lk 9:23)
 - "...wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it." (Lk 9:24-25)

I asked a question earlier. What is the Kingdom of God worth to you?

- If you _____ correctly, then it's of infinite value and all that you are and all that you have, even your very life, becomes _____.
- Why would one not be able to calculate correctly the worth of the Kingdom? Because it requires a supernatural work of the _____ (Phil 2:13).
- Calculate correctly? Experience infinite joy! A life _____ with peace/joy, purpose/meaning!

“Right on, Pastor! This is awesome! How do I get this?” Simple. Just ask with a sincere heart (Lk 11:13). Then, take *the next step*. (Turn over)

"The Next Step"



We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea.
We are far too easily pleased.

- CS. Lewis