



Study Guide – Sunday 25 April 2021

Please read **Matthew 13.53-58**

1. How would you describe the response of these people to Jesus?

That's a sobering example of how to miss out on entering and experiencing the kingdom. In the following parables Jesus teaches about how we need to respond so that we can experience the fullness of the kingdom.

Please read together: **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.'**

The parable highlights 3 linked Responses:

- **Appreciation** of the True Value of the Treasure – Jesus & his kingdom
- **Joy** in discovering the Treasure of the Kingdom
- **Behaviour** reflecting our appreciation of the Treasure's Worth

These responses show the kind of faith that enables us to enter and experience the kingdom of God. The Kingdom opens to those who joyfully appreciate the Value of the King and his Kingdom.

2. How does this man's response differ from those in Jesus' home town?
3. How might we lose our sense of appreciation and joy of Jesus and belonging to his kingdom over time? What influences this change?
4. How might our joyful appreciation be restored and grown?

Please also read together: **Matthew 13. 45 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. 46 When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.'**

5. How does the behaviour of the man who finds the treasure and the merchant who finds the pearl reflect their appreciation of its worth?
6. How do these parables speak to you at this moment? How do you need to respond?

Give time to the Word – never be far from the Gospels. Spend time every day gazing on your King. Listen to him speak – Watch how he lives. Be amazed and blessed. There is no-one like him. You are so blessed to have such a king. Encourage one another in the midst of this cynical world, to joyfully appreciate Jesus and His Kingdom – in our words and our actions.

7. Please spent time encouraging and praying for one another.