

Group/Individual Study

Series - The Greatest Stories Ever Told: The Pearl of Great Price

Passages: Mt 13:44-46, Mt. 6:31-33

REFLECT on the message heard on Sunday, 7/1

1. Read Matthew 13:44-46. What do you think is the main point Jesus is trying to make here? What pitfalls is He trying to help people avoid? What joys is He trying to steer us into?
2. Jesus' point isn't that we have to get rid of everything else in life if we want to have Him. But when Jesus takes His rightful place at the center of our lives, it does change how we "*hold*" and relate to the other things that are part of life.
  - Give an example of something that we are welcome to have in our lives, but which we must hold differently than the world does because He is our center.
  - Give an example of something that you've had to remove from your life because it interfered too much with keeping Jesus at the center.
3. Read Matthew 6:31-33. Does this add anything that helps us better understand the life Jesus intends for us? Explain.
4. Is there anything in your life right now that you think God is putting His finger on that needs to change so that Jesus can have His rightful place at the center? How can you allow others to support you and "have your back" in that effort? (We've got our "stuff" too; let us help you with yours!)
5. There's a saying wise Christians use, "The things the world offers (money, sex, success, security) can be wonderful servants, but they are terrible masters." Pick one of these things and tell: a) how it can be a servant of a devoted Christian life; and b) how it becomes a "terrible master" when it occupies the central place that should be reserved for Jesus.
6. What *life-habits or practices* have you found that help you most in keeping Jesus at the center of your life? How are you doing in terms of living out those habits/practices during this season of life?