

Bethel Church Community Groups :: Week of 4/30/17

Parables

1. [REVIEW/OPTIONAL] The text from service this week was various verses in Matthew 13.
 - a. What is a parable?
 - b. What are Jesus' two reasons for telling them? (vv10-17)
2. [CONTENT] In your group time you'll be digging into what I think is one of the most sobering parables Jesus tells. As a group read Matthew 25.14-30
 - a. David Platt gives a great process for understanding parables, try walking through it together as a group:
 - i. Clearly identify what each part of the parable represents (servants, bags of gold, etc)
 - ii. What is the main point of the parable (there is usually only one).
 - iii. How does this truth from Jesus change your perception of the world around you?
3. [CONTENT] Now read a similar parable found in Luke 19.11-27 as a group.
 - a. What are some differences and similarities between these two stories?
 - b. Are there any different lessons here Jesus means to show us?
 - c. Given the difference in the two accounts of different amounts, most people agree that the matthew passage is talking about God entrusting individual ability to people, while Luke is talking about God entrusting the Gospel message to each believer the same.
 - i. What does it look like to "be faithful" with the individual abilities God's entrusted to us?
 - ii. What does it look like to "be faithful" with the Gospel?
 - iii. What will you DO this week in obedience to these parables of Jesus?
4. [CONTENT] Many commentators agree that the core issue for the 3rd servant in each parable was a lack of faith (with what he did, he couldn't have truly believed his master was going to actually return).
 - a. What does a "true faith" in Christ's return today look like for us?
5. [PRAYER]
 - a. As we take our responsibility of being entrusted with the Gospel message seriously, its important to begin with prayer. As a group spend time praying for hearts to change and God's will to be done in the following areas together (not necessarily names specific – just that God would move in powerful ways):
 - i. People attending Bethel Church
 - ii. Specific schools in Owatonna
 - iii. Workplaces in town that come to mind
 - iv. Families of people in your group
 - v. Our country and world
 - b. Pray for one another's request also before you go