

## A KINGDOM PEOPLE: HOW THEN SHOULD WE LIVE?

*Matthew 13: 44-53*

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### Introduction

#### A Recap on Parables

- In Matthew 13, parables present different imageries of the Kingdom, challenging readers to respond.
- "...if the hearer brings to it the right attitude and openness, will result in their perceiving and responding to the truth" (France, 509)
- As disciples of Christ, we need to respond with a teachable spirit and an open heart.

#### Challenge to Respond

Given the following pictures of the Kingdom, how then should "Kingdom people" live?

1. The Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl (v44-46)
  - The man and the merchant sold everything they had and bought the field/pearl.
  - A Kingdom of infinite worth.

**Response:** Are we prepared to forsake everything else in pursuit of Kingdom priorities, mindset and values?

2. The Parable of the Net (v47-50)
  - Good co-existing with evil till the end of the age.
  - Separation at the final judgment.
  - Consequence for those who have lived wicked and unrepentant lives.

**Response:** Do we live out an authentic faith that endures?

3. The Parable of the House Owner (v51-52)
  - Understanding the teachings of the Old Testament in the light of Jesus' Kingdom teachings.
  - A Kingdom for all
  - Those who Jesus welcomed into the Kingdom included the "sinners", the irreligious, those considered unclean, etc.

**Response:** Is the Bible Church a community for all, including the broken, rejected and marginalized?

#### Conclusion

How then should we live?

1. Pursue Kingdom priorities.
2. Live out our faith with an eternal perspective.
3. Embrace all into our community.