

## Digging Deeper During the Week!

To experience the fullness of God's kingdom and your relationship to it this week, please read the Bible passage and answer the questions provided below. *God wants to show you so much, all you have to do is participate!*

### **Monday**      **The Spread of the Kingdom of God!** 14-Jan      Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23

Jesus spoke plainly about the kind of receptivity different types of people have towards the message of the Kingdom of God. When we consider the rule of Jesus Christ over our life, and what that requires of us, we have to deal with the life-change implications. As you read, seek to answer these questions based on your own personal life ...

- What are the four different types of reactions to the message of the Kingdom of God? What causes each reaction, as Jesus explains it?
- As you review the four reactions and the reasons for each reaction, which one would best describe you and why is that so? Would your closest friends agree with your answer?

### **Tuesday**      **The Enemies of the Kingdom of God!** 15-Jan      Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43

In this text we discover that there is a strategy for the enemies of God to infiltrate our fellowship and destroy God's work. What do these questions suggest to your thinking and perceptions?

- Jesus calls the enemies of the Kingdom 'weeds.' When you think of a weed among good plants, what destructive qualities and activities do you think of? How do these relate to the way destructive infiltrators work their way into our fellowship and ministry?
- As you reflect on this passage, what implications does this bring to you, to your spiritual life and the importance of walking close to Christ each and every day of your life?

### **Wednesday**      **The Potential for the Kingdom of God!** 16-Jan      Matthew 13.31-32

We see how Jesus likens the Kingdom to a seed which grows!

- The potential growth of the Kingdom seems to be dependent upon the soil it's planted in. What kind of soil will bring about the greatest growth in God's Kingdom (look at Monday's text)?

- Birds are always representative of bad or evil things in the parables of Jesus. What are some characteristics of these birds that indicate their effect within the Kingdom of God?

### **Thursday**      **The Worldwide Impact of the Kingdom of God!** 17-Jan      Matthew 13.33

In today's text, Jesus uses a common, everyday occurrence to explain the potential the Kingdom of God has to infiltrate all aspects of society.

- Yeast (leaven) is placed into dough in order to cause it to rise before baking. Consider the process a baker must use in order to get the yeast into the dough. What ideas does that cause to spring to your mind when you think of your responsibility to witness of the great things God has done for you?
- Since yeast will spread once it is forcefully introduced to the dough, how should this reality motivate you to 'push' the message of the benefits of God's Kingdom rule in your life into the lives of your friends and family?

### **Friday**      **The Priceless Value of the Kingdom of God!** 18-Jan      Matthew 13.44-46

In these stories of illustration, Jesus is explaining the extreme value of God's Kingdom and what one should be willing to sacrifice for it.

- The Kingdom of God is likened to a 'treasure' that one finds. How does your experience with God's Kingdom measure up to that analogy?
- The sacrifice of the one who finds the 'pearl of great price' is 'all that he had.' What are you willing to give up for God's Kingdom?

### **Saturday**      **The Urgent Motivation of the Kingdom of God!** 19-Jan      Matthew 13.47-52

In today's text Jesus explains the final judgment of all humanity.

- As you read through the illustration, what do you notice about the net itself? What does this indicate about the 'catch' in the last day?
- Those judged in the final judgment are separated by a specific standard. What is that standard of measurement, according to Jesus? What is the final destination of those who are judged – and upon whom does Jesus' focus most as He explains the last judgment? Why do you think he says it that way?

"I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead." **Philippians 3:13 (NLT)**