



## WEEK 2 STUDY GUIDE

### Read Matthew 13:47-51.

This passage is part of a chapter filled with parables from Jesus about the kingdom of heaven. He uses a number of comparisons to draw us into better understanding of the kingdom of heaven. Anthony Hoekema described the kingdom of heaven as “the reign of God dynamically active in human history through Jesus Christ, the purpose of which is the redemption of his people from sin and from demonic powers, and the final establishment of the new heavens and the new earth.” More simply, Graeme Goldsworthy summarized the kingdom of heaven as “God’s people in God’s place under God’s rule.” (It’s worth noting that this LIVE volume contains an entire series—“The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like...”—dedicated to the other parables in this chapter.)

Our conversation in this lesson only briefly touches on Matthew 13:44-46, but the “Again” at the beginning of verse 47 makes it essential to be familiar with the prior passage. The parable of the treasure and the parable of the pearl are similar because the main character sold all he had in order to purchase something. These parables differ, however, in how the man and the merchant each discovered the thing worth obtaining. The man stumbled upon the treasure. He was in a field and just happened to find the treasure. The merchant, however, wanted to find a pearl and was looking high and low for just the right pearl. But in both parables, each man decided to sell everything he had, in order to obtain the treasure.

And with that context in mind, as we approach verses 47-51, we discover that there are consequences to the most important decision we will ever face: Will we choose to truly follow Jesus? The decision to accept or reject the message of Jesus has an eternal impact.

If we have chosen to follow Christ, we must remember that our calling includes sharing the message of Jesus with others. And we must remember that God is the ultimate judge of who does or doesn’t have genuine faith in Jesus.

## WEEK 2 OVERVIEW

### **THE MAIN POINT**

We are called to share the message of Jesus to everyone.

### **THE MAIN SCRIPTURE**

Matthew 13:47-51