

KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

***The Kingdom of Heaven
Parables of the Nat
March 26, 2023***

Let's review these core tenets of Christianity, especially #3 as addressed by this parable.

1. There is a god.
2. Our God is the one true God.
3. There will be consequences for rejecting the one true God.

Read Matthew 13:47-50

- Jesus begins with, "Again, ..." Why is this significant?
- Briefly summarize the parables in Chapter 13 discussed in previous weeks: Week 1 – wheat & tares, Week 2 – mustard seed & leaven, and Week 3 - hidden treasure & the pearl.
- The parable of the net includes a warning that God only rejects those who persist in rejecting Him. How are we tempted to communicate a different message to ourselves or others?

Read Matthew 25:31-34, 41

- Who are the "righteous"? (Romans 4:5, and a deeper explanation in Romans 5:18-21)
- What are we wanting to "sugar coat" to ease the blow? What is the danger of softening this message in the long run?

Revisit the three foundational tenets discussed above:

1. There is a god – the alternative is naturalism.
 - What is the problem with, "Ex nihilo, nihil fit", "From nothing, nothing comes"?
 - Is a moral code (right/wrong) possible with a naturalistic worldview?
2. Our God is the one true God.

The Bible is historically accurate, including many fulfilled prophecies about Jesus.

 - Why does it matter that the Bible tells us *why* things are the way they are (sin) instead of *how* God works?
3. There will be consequences for rejecting the one true God.
 - **Read 2 Thessalonians 1:9, Matthew 25:41, Ecclesiastes 9:4, 2 Peter 3:9**
 - Atonement was defined as "at one ment", or unity with God. Once we accept Christ, we receive this atonement! What is the consequence of not accepting Christ?

Read Matthew 10:32-33 and John 14:6.

How do these scriptures reflect, "Let me tell you how things work around here" in reference to the Kingdom of Heaven?

In closing, pray that God would help each of us to live according to our hope in eternal life with Him and have courage to acknowledge Him in our conversations with others.