**Life Team Bible Study:** For the week of February 11 – One Thing

**Suggested schedule:** This is all flexible

* 15 minutes: Gathering / Refreshments
* 15 minutes: Prayer requests
* 30-45 minutes: Discussion of the lesson
* 5 minutes: closing prayer
* 15-30 minutes: Refreshments

**HANG**

* If you could have one thing heaven what would it be? Why?
* Was there anything that stand out to you, caught your attention, confused you, or spoke to you about Sunday’s message? What was it?

**HEAR**

**This past Sunday we talked about how there can be a religious attitude that can often hurt our walk with God rather than help.**

* What is that destructive religious attitude? Legalism – explain…
* Why is this possibly so destruction?
* Have you ever had an experience in a legalistic church environment?
* What was it like? Did it help you to know God better or worse? How? Why?
* Have you ever found yourself becoming legalist?
* What do you think most people are looking for when looking for God?

**The Parable of the treasure and pearl**

If we lose track of the real prize, we find ourselves chasing perishable prizes.

A parable of Jesus that deals with this very thing is found in Matthew 13

**Matthew 13:44**

* What would you do if you were walking in a field and stumbled upon some gold?
* What do you think this means?

**Matthew 13:45-46**

* If you knew it contained more value than you could imagine what would you sell to obtain the field?
* If people did not understand, do you think they would call you crazy?
* Jesus said these two parables are like the kingdom? How?

**Three Observations about the Kingdom of God**

**1. Some want the King, but not the Kingdom**

Some want to believe in Jesus - a ticket to heaven - but not the commitment or cost associated w/ citizenship in the Kingdom

**2. Some want the Kingdom, but not the King!**

Some want the world as Jesus talked about – justice, racism eliminated, hungry fed, war abolished - But, they want nothing to do with Jesus as the King of their own life.

**3. Some confuse the church and the Kingdom**

What we do here and on Sunday’s hopefully reflects the kingdom - but it would be a mistaken to think this is the Kingdom.

Some see a political, corrupt, self-consumed churches - it’s not a good expression of the kingdom sometimes - Church is part of the Kingdom, but it is not the Kingdom. Just a glimpse.

**Three Truths of the Great Treasure**

1. **The kingdom of heaven is something worth losing everything for**

**Philippians 3:7-9**

* Do you see the worth / the value of losing it all for the sake of this treasure?

Others may not understand what you have - they may not see what you see - may even think you're crazy... but you know.

1. **Never give up looking for the truth**

In both they found a treasure. One was not looking, the other was intently looking.

**Jeremiah 29:13, Matthew 7:7-8 -** Don’t give up the search

* Maybe you’re looking - if you seek God with all your heart look what happens?
* If you found the truth – would you be willing to trade everything to get the kingdom of heaven? Why?
* What is it that has caused millions to trade this world and face death for Jesus?
1. **We come to the kingdom - because Jesus is the greatest treasure**

**Philippians 3:13-14**

**Jesus is the treasure – Jesus is the pearl**

* With salvation comes benefits and we are to remember and be thankful, but the real reward is Jesus - is He enough for you?
* Do you really believe he is worth abandoning everything for?
* Are you willing to lose everything for the King?

**Jesus is the ultimate prize for following after him.**

* Question posed this past weekend, if everything you ever wanted in Heaven was there – but Jesus was not, would you still want to go to heaven? Why?
* What if none of that was there, only Jesus – would you still want to go? Why?
* Do you think – many want what God gives far more then we want God himself?
* Do you ever struggle with that? How?

**How to become a citizen of the kingdom - John 3:3**

**HUDDLE**

* Possible break into small groups – prayer requests – pray.

**HOME**

Look up the following verses and rewrite them in your own words. What is God telling you through them?

2 Timothy 2:5, 4:7-8, James 1:12, Acts 20:24, Philippians 3:7-14

1 Corinthians 9:25-27

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Matthew 13:44-46

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