

GIG 1: Matthew 13



Icebreaker

Remember the classic Christmas movie 'It's a Wonderful Life'? In this movie, George, a banker, thinks his life has been a waste. After meeting his angel, Clarence, he gets to see what his town would be like if he had never existed. George emerges from this experience a changed man. Between classes, relationships, sports, jobs and extra-circular activities, many of us leave little time for reflection on the whole of our lives. Occasionally a person or event (such as New Year's Day or a death in the family) will cause us to pause and reconsider our lives from a fresh perspective. Jesus was the type of person who often caused others to pause and reconsider the state of their lives. At what times of year or what events do you re-examine your life, goals and future?

Read Matthew 14: 1-23

Feel free to read this passage aloud as a group or silently to yourselves.

Some Questions for Discussion

1. What are the four types of soil that Jesus mentions and what happened to each of them?
2. What will happen to people who are spiritually dull and show no further interest in Jesus or his teachings? (v. 13-15)
3. What would be the result if their hearts were not calloused? (v. 15)
4. Jesus explained his parable to the disciples, giving meaning to each type of soil. The first soil was on the path. What happens to that kind of seed? What are some ways that God's spiritual seed is taken away from people's lives today?
5. What happens to the seed on the rocky places? Describe someone today who receives the word with joy, but only lasts a while before fading.
6. What happens to the seed that fell among the thorns? What are the worries of life and/or the trappings of wealth that prevent people from fully pursuing God?
7. Jesus knew that the Word could promote positive life change if well received. What steps could a person take to be more like the good soil that he talks about?
8. What role can this Bible study play in helping to gain perspective on spiritual issues?