

5. Give yourself a gratitude score from 1-10 (10 being most grateful). What steps might you take to become more grateful and experience more joy?

6. How would you describe the Kingdom of Heaven to someone who doesn't believe?

7. Where is God leading you with your BLESS list this week? (Look below for reference)

The Secrets of the Realm

"How to Experience More Joy"

Matthew 13:44-53

Matthew 13:44-53

How to Experience More Joy

1. _____ our treasure.

What you _____ affects your joy.

Surrendering completely means God is _____ into every nook and cranny of your life.

"The gospel (good news) of the kingdom isn't a pleasant religious idea that you might like to explore sometime when you've got an hour or two to spare." (N.T. Wright)

Matthew 13: 44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field."

Where is God leading you with your BLESS list this week?



2. _____ his treasure.

John 15: ⁹ "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."

John 10: ⁹ "I am the gate. If anyone comes in by me, they will be safe, and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief only comes to steal, and kill, and destroy. I came so that they could have life—yes, and have it full to overflowing."

"Realize how helpless you are to secure your own spiritual joy. Then do everything you can to pursue it." (John Piper)

3. _____ his treasure.

Matthew 13: ⁵² He said to them, "Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old."

"Nevertheless, here's the crux of the matter: the purpose of the church's life is to be the people of God for the world: a city set on a hill cannot be hidden. But the church can only be this if she is constantly being recalled to the story and message of scripture, without which she will herself lapse into the world's ways of thinking." (N.T. Wright)

"Helping one person might not change the world, but it could change the world for one person."

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

2. What are some of the things in your life that steal your joy?

3. What actions would you suggest believers take to prioritize and pursue the Kingdom of Heaven based on these parables?

4. Where do you experience joy most in your life right now?