

Checking In

1. Take a few minutes to check in with everyone, see how they are doing, and open with prayer.
2. Church Life: Padre's Game tickets are on sale this Sunday for our all church outing. The Belong Class (church membership) starts again May 20th. Sign up this Sunday.

Learning

Knowing God

Key Doctrines

- *Kingdom* – There is an already, but not yet reality to the kingdom of God. The kingdom was already inaugurated in hiddenness in Jesus' incarnation, but it is not yet consummated in the vividness of his judgment.
- *Hell*–The place outside of God's kingdom where people will experience the pain and sorrow of life apart from God.

Key Observations

- *Read: Matthew 13:47-50*
 - In what ways does this passage demonstrate the already, but not yet reality of the kingdom? In other words, how is the kingdom at work presently, and how will it operate at the end of the age?
We see that much like the parable of the weeds there is a present operation of the kingdom and future operation of the kingdom, which are joined in God's sovereign plan of redemption, but which have distinct features. The present kingdom is

inclusive in orientation, seeking to catch up as many people from every tribe, nation, creed, ethnicity, background, etc. as it can. In the kingdom yet to come there is a certain kind of exclusion that will take place, in which God will make a final judgment in regards to who truly is in the kingdom and who is not.

- What does this passage teach us about God's justice and judgment? When will his justice and judgment be fully expressed, and what will be its effect?
Jesus makes it clear in his first advent that he has come not to judge the world, but to save the world. What he also makes clear is that he will come again and will judge. At the end of the age, when Jesus returns and consummates his kingdom, he will separate those who are truly in the kingdom from those who are not. His judgments will be just and true, and they will have eternal consequence. Some people who live in his kingdom forever, and some will live outside of his kingdom (hell) for eternity.
- *Read: Matthew 4:18-22, Matthew 8:5-13*
 - What role do we have in Jesus' current kingdom fishing expedition? In other words, how has Jesus enlisted his disciples (followers) to participate in his present kingdom work?
Jesus has called his disciples to participate in his kingdom work. We are called to be fishers of men. Meaning, we are to be the ambassadors of his gospel, proclaiming the good news to all people that they might enter the kingdom of heaven.

- What kind of fish are we supposed to look for? In other words, who are we called to share the gospel with?

We are called to be inclusive in our gospel proclamation. We seek to share the good news of Jesus with everyone. We are called to exclude no one.

- Are there people (individuals or groups) whom you are resistant to sharing the gospel with? If so, why is this and what do you believe God's invitation is for you here?

This question connects a bit with your general "Listening" question to follow, but is meant to help provide some focus to the sharing time. Encourage people to share honestly.

Listening

Responding to God

- In light of hearing this week's sermon, our study together, and listening to God's Word, how might God be inviting you to take a step of obedience?

Loving

Obeying God

- What is happening in my own life right now that I need to share and for which I need prayer?
- This week I am committed to praying for _____ about:

Checking Out

- What was most meaningful about this group session for you (Give each person 1-2 sentences to share)?
- Close in Prayer and Read Matthew 4:19.