

THE WAY TO ABUNDANCE

Pastor Dave Bechtel | Matthew 13:12 | January 22, 2012

- I. Every servant gets **stuff** to **steward**.
John 14:6; Luke 19:26;
John 10:10; Luke 12:15;
Matt 11:20-24;
Matt 12:14-15,43-45;
Matt 13:1-3a, 10-17;
Luke 19:11-26
- A. **Truth** is God's most important gift for us to **steward**.
John 17:17; II Tim 3:16-17
- B. Everybody gets some **truth**.
John 1:18; Heb 1:1-3
- II. The King lets us **choose** how we'll handle the **gifts** He gives us.
- A. **Receive** or **reject**.
Matt 12:48-50; 13:11, 13-15;
John 1:11; 3:19; Luke 8:21
- B. **Use** it or **lose** it.
Heb 5:11-14
- III. What we **do** with what we've been **given** determines what He will **do** with us.
- A. From some, He will **take away**.
I Cor 3:10-15
- B. To some, He will **give more**.
I Pet 2:2; Heb 5:14;
I Tim 2:10-12a
- C. **Application: Do** something with the **truth** He has **given**.
James 1:22-25

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

The following questions are for discussion in your small group. As disciples, our goal is to obey the Word, not just listen to it preached (James 1:22). Therefore, the questions lean towards application of the biblical teaching we get during the sermon. We hope you are able to consider and answer these questions prior to your group meeting time. These questions may also be good for family discussion times.

- As a group, recite our memory verse, 2 Timothy 3:16-17. (Suggestion: go around in a circle and have each person supply the next word of the verse.)
- Share any new insight you've gained through the sermon. Ask a question about anything you didn't understand.
- Read Matt. 13:1-3, 10-15 and answer the following sermon "review" questions:

A) Pastor Dave gave an outline of Jesus as King from Matthew. Match the following chapters with the corresponding outline.

Matthew 1-4	The King's power
Matthew 5-7	The King's credentials
Matthew 8-9	The King's presentation to the nation
Matthew 10	Rejection/opposition and the King's judgements
Matthew 11-12	The King's principles

B) Why did Jesus change His teaching strategy to parables? (Matthew 13:10)

C) How did most of the Jews demonstrate they were "refusing to listen to Jesus?" (Matt. 11:20, 12:14, 24 & 38) Why did they do that? (Matt. 13:15)

D) Consider the "cow principle." (Matthew 13:12) What will happen if you apply what God's telling you? What if you don't?
- Why does Matthew make such a big deal about Jesus being "King?" How can you show that Jesus is your "King?"

Break into gender groups to discuss the following questions:

5. What are some of the gifts the Lord has given to us to steward? Describe what good stewardship might look like for each.

6. Read James 1:22-25. Pastor Dave said; 'When it comes to truth, we have been given the most of any generation.' He also challenged us in Point III c to "Do something with the truth He has given." What are you currently doing? What more do you need to do?

Bonus questions for groups with kids at home:

7. God gives parents the responsibility for training their kids in biblical truth. Engage in answering the following diagnostic questions based on the way you prioritize your life:
 - A) Have I filled my children's lives so full of things that we never have time to talk about Jesus or other spiritual truths?

 - B) Do we ever talk about God in an informal way, as we walk along, watch TV, or travel in the car?

 - C) What do I most want for the children God has given me – academic or athletic success, a great career, a loving spouse and family, an exciting life...or faith in Jesus?

Statements from a Spiritual infant:

- "I believe in Jesus, but my church is when I'm in the woods."
- "I don't have to go to church to be a Christian."
- "I gave my life to Jesus and I go to church, but I don't need to be close to other people."
- "I don't have time to be in relationship with another Christian."
- "My spouse is my accountability partner; I don't need anyone else."
- "I pray and read my Bible; that is good enough for me."
- "My ministry is my secular work; I don't have time for the church."
- "I didn't know the Bible said that."
- "We were born as spirit children in heaven before we were born down here as humans, correct?"

Statements from a Spiritual Child:

- "I love my small group; don't add any more people to it."
- "Who are all these people coming to my church? Tell them to go somewhere else!"
- "I am not coming to church anymore. It has become too big; it has too many people."
- "My small group is not taking care of my needs."
- "I don't have anyone who is spending enough time with me; no one is disciplining me."
- "I didn't like the music today. If only they did it like . . ."
- "I am not being fed in my church, so I am going to a church that meets my needs better."