

The Gospel

ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Week 5: Responses to the Kingdom (Matt. 11-13)

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

To maintain a healthy group, focus on four key components: Word, prayer, relationships, and outreach. This guide will help you study a biblical passage through observation, interpretation, and application. As you explore Matthew 11-13, keep in mind this week's big idea: will you trust Jesus enough to rest in Him, surrender all for Him, and see Him as He truly is?

CONNECT

Share about a time when trusting someone required you to let go of control, give up something valuable, or see them in a new light. What was the outcome?"

INTRODUCTION

Matthew 11-13 highlights various responses to Jesus and His Kingdom message—from doubt and legalism to rejection and faith. John the Baptist questions from prison, Pharisees condemn over Sabbath rules, crowds hear parables of hidden treasure, pearl, and net illustrating the Kingdom's supreme value and judgment, and Jesus' hometown rejects Him due to familiarity. These chapters challenge us to examine our trust in Jesus: resting in His gentle yoke, surrendering everything for the priceless Kingdom, and receiving Him without presumption. True faith responds with childlike humility, recognizing Jesus as Lord who offers rest and eternal life.

OBSERVATIONS & INTERPRETATION

Read: Matthew 11:25-30; 12:1-8

- Jesus thanks God for revealing truth to "little children" not the "wise" (11:25). What does this suggest about the attitude needed to enter the Kingdom?
- He invites the weary to take His "easy yoke" for rest (11:28-30). How does this contrast with the Pharisees' burdensome rules in 12:1-8?
- Jesus declares Himself "lord of the Sabbath" (12:8). What does this reveal about His authority and desire for mercy over sacrifice?

Read: Matthew 13:44-50

- The Kingdom is like a great treasure or a priceless pearl. What does this mean? How should we respond?
- How does the net parable (vv.47-50) underscore the urgency of responding to the Kingdom?

Read: Matthew 13:53-58

- What does familiarity breed here, and how might it hinder faith today?

APPLICATION

- Do you trust Jesus enough to rest? Identify a burden or rule you're carrying—how can you submit it to His gentle yoke this week?
- Do you trust enough to surrender all? What "backup plans" or earthly treasures might you need to release for the Kingdom's sake?
- Do you trust enough to see Him truly? Where has familiarity dulled your awe of Jesus, and how can childlike faith revive it?

PRAYER

Take a moment to pray for each other. Thank God for revealing the Kingdom through Jesus. Pray for deeper trust to rest in Him, surrender fully, and receive Him anew, especially for those facing doubt or rejection.