

TAKING A CLOSER LOOK

What does the Bible say?

In our last study we saw that “in the beginning” man parted ways with God. Since then this world and its kingdoms have operated outside of God’s leadership. Spiritually speaking, this world is a dark place. Into this darkness, Jesus was sent to establish a new way, a new kingdom.

One World, Two Kingdoms

Read Matthew 13.24-30, then 13.36-50. Fill in the chart below.

Verse	Parable		Explanation
v. 37	The <i>man sowing good seed</i>	=	Son of Man
v. 38	The <i>field</i>	=	
v. 38	The <i>good seed</i>	=	
v. 38	The <i>weeds</i>	=	
v. 39	The <i>enemy</i>	=	
v. 39	The <i>harvest</i>	=	
v. 39	The <i>harvesters</i>	=	

- In this parable Jesus teaches that our world is led by two rulers. Both have followers, or “sons”. Who are the two rulers, and how are their followers described? (verses 37-39)
- What is Jesus sowing into the field? (verse 38)
- When was it discovered that weeds were mixed in with the wheat? (verse 26)

THINKING IT THROUGH

What does the Bible mean?

The Kingdom of God

Look at Colossians 1.13-14.

- What two kingdoms make up this world? (verse 13)

- Who has rescued us and where has he brought us? (verses 12-13)
- Look up the word 'redeem' in the dictionary. What does it mean that we have been redeemed and forgiven of our sins? (verse 14)

Read Hebrews 2.14-17.

- Why did Jesus become a man "of flesh and blood"? (verse 14)
- Whose power did Jesus destroy by dying on the cross? (verse 14)
- Who was freed (rescued) by Jesus' death? (verse 15)
- Look up the word 'propitiate' in the dictionary. What does it mean?
- How did Jesus' death on the cross "propitiate for our sins" and improve our standing before God? Why do you think this is? (verse 17)

Read Colossians 2.13-14

- What do these verses tell you about sin and forgiveness, death and life?
- What was "nailed to the cross"? (verse 14)

MAKING IT COUNT

How do I live what I've learned?

We live in a world divided. There are many human kingdoms in our world, but spiritually speaking there are only two, the kingdom of darkness and the kingdom of God. Two rulers are at war for the souls of men and women. You and I belong to one of these kingdoms; the question is "Which?"

Jesus claimed that he had invaded this world as "light coming into the darkness". He called people to leave the kingdom of darkness and become his followers.

- What happens to those who believe in Jesus' claims? (John 12.46)
- What happens to those who become Jesus' followers? (John 8.12)
- What happens to those who become Jesus' followers? (1 John 1.7)