

**MONDAY:** In worship, our focus was on God's Kingdom being present on earth as well as in Heaven. Jesus gives us examples of what the Kingdom on earth might look like. This week we will read parables of Jesus where the focus is on insight to the Kingdom. Read Matthew 13:24-33. This passage has three Kingdom of Heaven parables. What two things can you say about the Kingdom of Heaven based on these three? Is there anything you can claim 'isn't' part of the Kingdom of Heaven?

**TUESDAY:** Today, read three more of Jesus' Kingdom parables giving us a vision of what will be. Read Matthew 13:44-51. Look back at Matthew 13:28-30 from yesterday. In the Kingdom parables of yesterday, the servants are encouraged to let the weeds and the good seed grow together: being sorted out later. Does that conflict with today's parables? What might we say the parables tell us about our priorities?

**WEDNESDAY:** Read Mark 10:13-16. Perhaps you have heard this scripture before about the little children and how Jesus loves them. It is often used to show that Jesus cares about little children. So...beyond the idea of Jesus liking kids, what point was he making about the Kingdom? What qualities must we seek to inculcate that little children have? When do you think the children grow out of those qualities? What factors cause them to grow out of them? Do you have those qualities?

**THURSDAY:** Read Mark 10:17-27. This scripture has a wealthy man asking Jesus a question. Verse 21 says that Jesus was looking at him and loved him. Was Jesus' love expressed in what he said after this? Some people might call that rather harsh. Couldn't Jesus have just hinted at what he was meaning rather than be so blunt? What is it about our wealth that makes it so hard to give up? Does tithing free us from attachment to our wealth?

**FRIDAY:** Read John 3:1-21. This scripture has the famous John 3:16 verse; great verse! That great verse comes as a reflection after the interaction with Nicodemus and talk of the Kingdom of God. Try to set aside all your history with this interaction. Read Jesus' words slowly in verses 3 & 5. What is necessary for the Kingdom of God to be here on earth as well as in Heaven? What does being born from above (again) mean, specifically? Do I need to cry? Should I feel something overpowering me? Is there certain knowledge I will have? Do I have to say certain words?