

We don't build God's Kingdom by winning arguments—
we build it by inviting people into the life of Jesus.

Matthew 13:31-34

6/7/26

Is there greater success in life than to be known as a friend? I discern most days how to live well. I am convinced that Jesus desires for us to flourish and to help others flourish. So, what does it mean to flourish, to grow abundantly, to be healthy, to be complete?

For Jesus, its living into the Kingdom of God. Kingdom of God is better translated as the "Active Rule of God." Jesus talks a lot about the Kingdom of God, the Kingdom of Heaven, the Active Rule of God through us. In fact, Jesus' most common preaching theme is that the "Active rule of God is immediately in front of us-reach out and grab it." I love this idea from Jesus because it's not something God forces on us. Love is not forceful. Love is partnership. Leadership is partnership. You must love the people to lead the people. This is why the Kingdom grows quietly, relationally, and overtime.

God is not going to force God's self on us. Jesus compares the "Active rule of God" to a mustard seed and yeast. Both examples are small but effective. Mustard seeds are about the size of black pepper flakes and round. Yeast is also teeny-tiny but produces a profound outcome overtime.

Have you been in an argument recently about raising children, politics, religion and it going sideways fast? I'm convinced we don't build "God's active rule" by winning arguments. Was Jesus trying to win arguments? Or is Jesus inviting others to live into the Active Rule while He is showing the Way?

Matthew 13:44-46

Is there greater success in life than to be known as a friend? I discern most days how to live well. I am convinced that Jesus desires for us to flourish and to help others flourish. So, what does it mean to flourish, to grow abundantly, to be healthy, to be complete?

Our culture is obsessed with scale and influence- Jesus values faithful presence. Would you rather have, "More clicks or a friend?" Would you rather have, "More influence or a friend?" You see friendship with the Lord is a like a person who found a hidden treasure and went and sold everything she owned to go and buy that land. Friendship with the Lord is like a merchant in search of a great pearl and when finding the finest pearl he had ever encountered and goes and sells everything to buy that pearl.

Now the question becomes, "For what are you searching? Are you searching to live well? To flourish? To grow abundantly? To be complete?

This is what the Lord Jesus wants for each of us. This is what we Christians want for our children, for each other, for society. It begins by accepting Jesus' invitation to do Kingdom work. It begins by entering friendship with Jesus Christ. Jesus is right in front of you. Reach out and grab Him.

Is there greater success in life than to be known as a friend? It's funny that Jesus uses images of selling everything to buy the greatest thing ever, when Jesus knows we can't buy friendship, we can't buy faith, we can't earn salvation, friendship with Jesus is a gift. So what is Jesus up to here? Why do you think Jesus uses these images to describe friendship with Him?

We know that our friendship with Jesus Christ is the center of our lives. Our friendship with Jesus directs how we eat, how we spend, how we work, what we drive, what we wear, how we respond to crisis, but others don't. And we are not going to convince them through winning an argument. We are going to invite them through how we live.

Friends God invites us to participate in kingdom work that often feels small—but carries eternal impact.

Talk to strangers. We can be Christ's Hands, Feet, and Voice on Earth by the power of His Holy Spirit. Now more than ever, talk to strangers. Children, get your parents' permission. In this polarized culture, in this social-media driven isolated culture, we must talk to strangers to stay connected. Small conversations can have eternal impact. Brief conversations with strangers can bring hope that there are folks who care.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Curtis

Theme: God invites us to participate in kingdom work that often feels small—but carries eternal impact.

Sermon Notes:

1. The kingdom grows quietly, relationally, and over time.
2. In a culture obsessed with scale and influence, Jesus values faithful presence.
3. God invites us to participate in kingdom work that often feels small—but carries eternal impact.
4. You don't need a platform to build the kingdom—just willingness.
5. You may not see the impact—but God is growing something through your faithfulness.

