

**Life Group Notes**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**Speaker:** Scott Taylor

**Title:** Kingdom Identity

**Passage:** Matthew 13:36-43

In week seven of the Kingdom series, we looked at Kingdom identity, looking at **Matthew 13:36-43**.

We can identify ourselves in many different ways, but ultimately, as followers of Jesus we have been given new identity as people, daughters and sons, children of the Kingdom.

The passage looks at Jesus' explanation of a parable found in Matthew 13 v 24-30 and shows us who we are in Christ.

He starts by saying that the Farmer is the Son of Man – a messianic term that he uses for himself regularly in the new testament. To understand our identity we must remember that there is one greater than us. All other identities put us at the centre of our jobs or kids etc! But Kingdom Identity puts Christ in the centre, in Him we find our life, our security, our acceptance.

Jesus goes on to say that he plants good seed. We are good seed, the people, the sons and daughters, the children of the Kingdom. We so often hear the negative self-talk – I'm not good enough, not strong enough... Jesus, the Son of Man, says we are good seed. He defines our identity.

His field is the World – our Kingdom identity is knowing that we are part of something so much bigger. We may live in our particular part of the field, but we have a world-wide family we are part of, who all follow the same Jesus and have the same purpose to display the Kingdom of God to the people in our spheres of influence. The mission doesn't rest on our individual shoulders or even on that of RFC but the mission is shared.

Part of our kingdom identity is to remember there is a spiritual reality. The devil is real and it is he who plants the weeds. Jesus is clear, you're either good seed or you're a weed. No middle ground, which is so hard for us to culturally understand. We live in a world that says that we can be who we want to be, but Jesus says your identity is either as good seed or as a weed.

As part of our identity we need to know that we are not uprooted from this world when we become Christians, tucked away somewhere until Jesus comes again – we are sown into the world to display the Kingdom!

Our job is not to work out who is good seed and who is bad – we can only really know that about ourselves. Our job is to take our place and represent him. The work of judgement happens on the final day and is carried out by the angels.

Finally, as part of our Kingdom Identity we have a deep hope that one day we will shine like the sun in our Father's Kingdom. The day is coming when we will no longer be side by side with evil. But will be in the very presence of Jesus.

**Suggested Questions:**

1. What ways would you identify yourself? Scott talked about his job, his family etc.
2. How does knowing that Jesus has sown us and called us good seed help us?
3. How can it help you in your everyday life and in mission that God has called us all to be ambassadors of his Kingdom?
4. Spend time praying for each other to know our Kingdom identity.