

There's More

Part 4: The Choice is Yours

Matthew 13:1-23

INTRO There's got to be more.

You want MORE than constantly trying to get ahead only to never reach what "ahead" actually is, right?

More than just getting through this phase to then have to get through the next and the next?

More than the constant noise around us

More than just hoping our good outweighs our bad?

More than only guessing at why we are here and what it is all about?

Every once in a while we ask these questions and either don't find an answer or aren't satisfied with the answers that are presented to us...

Often just seems like we're chasing the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow

THERE IS MORE... **God created us for MORE**... WAY more **than we've imagined**

And instead of hinting at it he came and showed us.

Bc he loves us so much... God who created the universe came as Jesus to show us there is infinitely more we are invited to...

He called it **KoG**... God's revolution breaking through our world to completely change how the world works, how we interact with each other and God, to bring heaven to earth starting now and culminating in an eternal future.

He's invited all of us to fuse our story with his grand story. To accept and play our role in the revolution.

Not just to EXPERIENCE MORE but to truly BECOME MORE

But we often miss it. And choose to settle for less.

Why? Why wouldn't everyone want to join and find that there is so much MORE available in their lives?

Becoming MORE comes down to a few simple choices.

GOD:

One day while teaching a large crowd, Jesus told a story explaining why so many of us miss the MORE that is offered.

V. 3a-9 *"Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seeds..."*

Clear? Alright good. See you next episode.

If thinking... Wait what? In good company. Jesus' closest friends didn't get it at first either. So they asked him what he was talking about... he explained it...

V. 19 *The seed that fell on the footpath...*

Seed= Message of KoG... invitation to not just get to heaven. Be part of revolution bringing heaven to earth now. God loves you. God is FOR you. (EPISODE 1)

Farmer= Jesus... Just flinging that stuff wherever he wants, covering the Earth with seeds.
- His extravagant grace offered to everyone

Soils/Dirt- You/Me... we're dirty. How different people respond to invitation

First soil- seeds fall on footpath birds eat it... those who hear it but don't understand it... devil (Jesus said he was real) takes it away.

I always felt bad for these people... wasn't their fault... maybe Jesus should've explained it better.

Still feel bad but that's not what Jesus saying...

"To understand" isn't just mentally grasping the concept. It's the idea of hearing and then doing/applying.

The person who says, "Oh that's nice, and just leaves it at that. Doesn't explore. Doesn't try to apply a little bit. CHOOSES to not understand.

Closed to actually making any kind of change...

People can sit in church service after church service/bible study after bible study and only hear and do nothing.

The Kingdom of God is MORE than agreeing that love is good and trying to be nice once in a while.

People can say, "Yeah i like this idea of Jesus and love... we should be good to each other. Welp back to life."

Don't want to ask the bigger questions. Take uncomfortable first steps.

Devil swoops in and takes the little seed that would have grown into MORE.

V. 20-21 *The seed on the rocky soil...*

People who hear the message, really like the idea, genuinely excited about what this could mean for them

"Yes I'm in!" Emotional, Joyful... but fail to accept what is truly required... unable to really make the commitment.

They've enjoyed the free trial period, but when it starts costing something they cancel their membership.

Think about any revolution we've seen...Joining a revolution isn't just a fun party...

Joining God's revolution means choosing to live counter to everything else you see around you.

Choosing to be LESS THAN. Choosing to be Insignificant. Choosing to live for something other than/more than what we want... everyday.

Choosing to live like this is not easy and not everyone will understand it.

It's difficult... it's scary... but it's worth it... unfortunately many people fail to get past the free trial

V. 22 *The seed that fell among the thorns...*

Very many JF's. **Often ME**

Understand Facts of the Gospel- Jesus died so we need to love each other...

Good/nice people. Read bible, go to church, lead groups, lead churches... but allow other things to distract them from their true purpose in the revolution. "Get caught in the weeds".

Distracted b/c care more about what this world we can see can give them (or take away from them) than they do about their role in the revolution...

Examples:

- Rather go to hawaii for 3rd time than use some of that money to help others
- Would rather talk/argue about politics than listen to understand the God image bearer next to them (ever cancelled someone b/c of political views instead of getting to know who they actually are?)
- So focused on getting ahead in career that co-workers have become obstacles instead of people to be less than... family has become distraction instead of 1st people to serve.
- Prefer the distractions of entertainment (video games, sports, tv, hobbies) than actually/physically serving others.
- Ended a friendship (killed the unity Jesus called us to) b/c of differing views about pandemic stuff
- Have thought you would change/leave churches over mask/music/political preference (some of you would think about quitting right now if I told you to either get or not get the vaccine)

Many of these distractions are not BAD in and of themselves... (**Luke Example**) but if not careful literally CHOKe the life out of what we are truly called to join.

Jesus didn't come down from heaven, turn nature on its head, reverse disease and death, die, rise again, ascend to the right hand of the Father, Send the HS to live in us and empower us to simply be comfortable, to go to our preferred type of religious service once a week, and smile at strangers in the grocery store.

Definitely didn't do it so we could turn people into enemies over political views
Or constantly distract ourselves into a stupor.
Or fight with people until they come around to our "correct" way of thinking.

To become MORE we have to choose to live for ONE thing.

Many of us need a serious re-focus of what we say we are doing as JF's.

We've allowed other things to choke our purpose, it's part of the human experience... we need to let go of all the OTHER and focus on the MAIN THING

We are invited to be SO MUCH MORE!

V. 23 *The seed that fell on good soil...*

CHOOSE to Accept it... and DO IT

Harvest is insane- Good harvest in Jesus' place and time would yield 10 times. Becomes more than anyone thought possible

When we accept our role in the revolution, commit to it, allow God to use us... give up preferences, allegiances, identities except for Jesus himself... let it all go...we become more than we ever expected (last episode mustard seed/yeast)

We have to choose to give up everything in order to become MORE.

YOU:

You're dirty. What kind of dirt do you choose to be?

There's only one that becomes MORE.

Not sure yet? Investigate- don't brush off... don't be the path... shoot if you've made it this far you are off to a great start. There's probably at least a little soil there for a seed to take root. Develop your soil with some good amendments...

Read Matthew with friend and talk about it.

Ask- What does it SAY about who Jesus is? What does that MEAN? What should I DO in response?

JF but realize there might be some **rocky** or **thorny** issue going on? Consider yourself "good soil"? Ever noticed how well weeds grow in good soil and how often it needs to be weeded?

Read Luke 9:23-27 once a day this week.

Adjust accordingly.

Small steps are good. BUT Life is short and it might be time for big steps too.

The world is changing... has already changed it's time to take this seriously...

We don't have time for anything else anymore.

The new future desperately needs JF's who choose to make their lives about God's revolution

Next series about what that actually looks like and how we as CCC are taking steps to make our lives about revolution

WE

Imagine every moment having purpose.

Imagine knowing that you are part of something bigger than just getting more

Imagine being a part of bringing true life to those you love the most

Imagine at the end... knowing you gave your life to the greatest purpose in the history of the world... to something that will truly last.

You are invited to Join the revolution.

Discover the life Jesus offers

Enjoy it... make it your life

Share it... this is the life people are desperately looking for... you have a role to play in bringing it to them.

Are you in?

The kingdom of God is here

In the Kingdom of God we are invited to be MORE than we've imagined.

The choice is yours.

OUTRO

Questions

1. Describe this week's message/passage in one sentence. What's your reaction to the main idea presented?
2. Read Luke 9:23-27 as a group. How does this strike you? What do you think "taking up your cross daily" looks like for you?
3. Where would you put yourself on a scale from footpath to fertile soil? How can your group pray for you and your "dirtiness" this the week?