

The Secrets of the Realm

“A Non-Anxious Presence” (Part 1)

Matthew 13:24-35

Matthew 13: ¹¹ He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them.”

The Twist

A Lesson

A Tool

Where is God leading you with your BLESS list this week?



Resources:

- Cuss, Steve. Managing Leadership Anxiety: Yours and Theirs. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2019.
- The Ten Minute Bible Hour Podcast, MATT299, January 6, 2021

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Read Matthew 13:24-30. Knowing the dire threat posed by the weeds, what stands out to you about this parable, in addition to the calm response of the owner?
3. The servants are only servants. They are not the owner. Nevertheless, they're alarmed. Putting yourself in their shoes, why might you be alarmed in a situation like that?
4. The alarm and anxiety of this real threat to people's livelihood could have been contagious and led to disastrous actions. What are some of the ways anxiety and fear spread in our families, schools, churches, or society?
5. The owner may have been just as alarmed and anxious, but he responded calmly. When you find yourself in stressful and anxious situations, what does remaining calm look like in practical terms? In other words, if you're not going to join the screeching, but you also don't want to be detached and only concerned with your own mental well-being, what can you do that helps model calmness?
6. How can you learn to find solace and strength in the fact that God is a caring and powerful, non-anxious presence, no matter what threats you're facing?
7. In your group prayer time, share one anxious situation you are facing. As a group, pray for each item shared and for everyone to find greater peace in knowing that God is already in that situation. Then, conclude your prayer time by praying the St. Patrick prayer together:
Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right,
Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.