

Matthew 21:33-46
Sermon: December 4, 2011

Know Your Neighbor

1. List some of the ways Jesus or Christianity (maybe especially its exclusive claims) is viewed as offensive in our culture/world. Give some specific examples or situations.
2. Share with the group your experience (e.g., struggles and/or successes) of being faithful as a Christian in non-Christian world (e.g., work, school, extended family, or neighborhood).

Know God's Word

1. Reflect on the passage and in one or two sentences give a brief synopsis of the sermon last Sunday. (Write down and discuss together any significant emphases or principles).
2. Read the following passages in your personal study this week: Matthew 28:18-20 and John 15:1-8
 - a. How does the implicit command to serve as tenants of God's vineyard in Matt. 21:33-46 (see especially v. 41) connect to what Jesus will command his disciples in Matt. 28:18-20?
 - i. What kind of "crop" (see v. 41) does God expect the Christian to be harvesting?
 - ii. How might "the mission" articulated in Matt. 28:18-20 connect with the original mission of God in Genesis 12:1-3?
 - b. How does John 15:1-8 give guidance to the Christian who is trying to be a faithful to God and his work in the world?

Know How to Live

1. Discuss as a group what you perceive to be the duties of the Christian in order to participate faithfully in the mission of God in the world
2. Share with the group some steps you could make God's mission a bigger concern in your individual, family life, and/or church life. Spend time seeking forgiveness for inactivity and/or praying for specific steps of action.