

**Take Five (Matthew 13:31-35, 44-52)**

**Introduction**

- What is most precious to you in life?
- What are most of the parables in Matthew 13 about?
- What does Jesus mean by “the kingdom of heaven”?

**i The prevailing kingdom (v31-35)**

- What is Jesus saying about the mustard seed in v31-32?
- What does this mean about the kingdom of heaven?
- What is Jesus saying about the yeast in v33?
- What does this mean about the kingdom of heaven?
- What do the parables together teach, then?
- How has this started to be fulfilled in history?
- Why is the kingdom guaranteed to prevail?
- What should that do to us as Christians in the UK today?

**ii The precious kingdom (v44-46)**

- What happens in v44?
- What is the point of Jesus’ parable?
- What happens in v45-46?
- What is the point of that parable?

- What are the two parables together teaching?
- Can we earn our way into the kingdom by making sacrifices?
- What is the first lesson we should learn from these verses?
- What might we have to give up for the kingdom?
- But what do we gain?
- Are most Christians convinced of this today?
- What can you do to help convince yourself?
- What is the second lesson we should learn from these verses?
- What must you do if you have never come into the kingdom?

### iii The proclaimed kingdom (v47-52)

- What is the point of the Parable of the Net in v47-50?
- What does Jesus ask his disciples in v51?
- What does Jesus mean by his reference to teachers of the law?
- What have the disciples been instructed in?
- What, then, can the disciples do?
- What is the connection between v51 and v52?
- What are some of the contexts in which we can fulfil v52?
- Are you doing that?

### Conclusion

- How would your life be different if the kingdom was the most precious thing to you?