

Can You Imagine? | Matthew 13:43-44 Sermon Discussion Participant Guide

Purpose of Discussion: To take a practical step in allowing God to shape our imaginations more.

Sermon Refresher: Dave talked about how Jesus doesn't want to change us by giving us merely information, but allowing that information to reshape our imaginations.

Icebreaker: How did this past summer play out differently than you had imagined it?

Discussion:

1. Dave said that imagination drives our lives because we are imaginative beings and that we cannot live unimaginative lives. What do you think he means by that? What do you think he means by imagination?
2. Dave also said that if you want other things more than Jesus then it's not that we have an information problem but an imagination problem. What might be some other things that capture our imagination more than Jesus.?
3. Read Paul's prayer again:

Ephesians 1:18-19

¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

Notice Paul prays that we may have the eyes of our hearts (or our imaginations) enlightened. What would it look like to have our imaginations enlightened?

4. Read the following passages:

John 10:14-15, 27-28

THE **crossing** **small groups**

¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ²⁷ My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.

Matthew 13:43-44

⁴³ "Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear. ⁴⁴ The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field."

How does Jesus want to shape how we are imagining him, ourselves, and our lives?

5. List off some of Jesus' miracles he did for others. How do they help us imagine what God has prepared for us? How does that help us to live for that hope?

Digging Deeper (Optional): Dave gave two illustrations near the end of his sermon. One was the dusty trunk revealing the truth of who he really was to a boy who felt mistreated and neglected by his seeming parents (but really his kidnappers). The second was the film of the people walking the streets in Amsterdam from a hundred years ago. The people seemed busy with things that matter, but what really matters most 100 years after. What did you find helpful in these illustrations?

6. What is a practical step you can take to allow God to reshape your imagination?

Sharing and Prayer:

Share a truth that you want to shape your imagination more in this time. Pray for the person on your left.