



THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

We all have "elephants in the room" – things we don't want to discuss. But leaving these "elephants" unaddressed won't lead us to a flourishing life. Today, we're tackling the topic of priorities. Now, priorities don't seem in the same ballpark as alcohol and sexuality, but they're still an elephant in the room. Perhaps you're not struggling with a major sin issue, but are you becoming the person God truly wants you to become? We know what we'd like our lives to be about, but are our priorities leading us in that direction?

Warm Up:

1. What's something big or small that happened this week that you're thankful for?

Key Passage: Matthew 13:44-46

Discussion Questions:

1. Industrial engineer and management consultant William Edwards Deming said, "Every system is perfectly designed to get the result that it does." What does this mean? How does his statement fit with the topic of priorities?
2. When someone repents of their sins and puts their faith and trust in Jesus for salvation, Jesus becomes their King and reigns over their lives. Why should we expect new priorities to accompany this new identity in Christ (Galatians 2:20)? How do we see this demonstrated in the parables of Matthew 13:44-46?
3. Read Romans 12:1-2. What do these two verses say about our lives as followers of Christ and the priorities that should set the course for us? Why is it that, over time, we slowly regain control over our lives and find ourselves on the throne rather than Christ?
4. When you first became a follower of Christ, you were likely staggered by the scope of God's love, grace, and mercy toward you and compelled to prioritize the things of God in your life. What role does each of the Kingdom Commitments mentioned in the sermon play in helping to keep our hearts warm toward God the further we get from the day we first believed? On a scale of 1-5, how would you rate your commitment to each Kingdom Commitment? (Don't ignore the elephant!)
5. What would you say to a follower of Christ who no longer sees the joy in following Jesus but only sees the tension that it brings because of the difficult choices faced daily to remain faithful to Him?
6. What's one personal takeaway from today's study you can focus on this week?