



When You Reach the End of Netflix

October 11, 2020

Matthew 13:31-32

Connect:

- Netflix is one of the companies booming during the pandemic. With much more time at home these days, and at ten bucks a month, a whole world of kingdoms have opened to the masses: from Tiger Kings and Last Dances to some touristy show about the Ozarks. Share one of your favorite Netflix series or a favorite television series from days gone by. Why were/are you drawn to that series?

Engage

- Read *Matthew 13:31-32*. This brief parable comes in a long line of parabolic teachings of Jesus. What is so effective about this method of teaching?
- Jesus was laser focused on prepping his disciples to lead this movement forward. He was battling push back from the Pharisees for healing people on the Sabbath. Even the folks of his hometown rejected him. Have you ever been so focused on something that everyone around you thought you had lost it? How did that feel? Does Jesus expect this kind of focus on our own discipleship? Why/why not?
- There is a regular word from Jesus about two different worlds – a material world and a spiritual world. How do you differentiate between the two? What happens when one is laid over the other?
- Mark references a scene from *The Matrix* in which Morpheus (a God-like figure) introduces Neo to the matrix – a world he’s previously been unable to see. Morpheus tells Neo, “*You’re here because you know something...*” and he goes on to speak to that knowing as a “*something more*” to this life. In the same way, there’s something more to the seed Jesus described than the initial eye can see. Imagine you are here, in this small group setting, because you *know* something... you seek a “*something more*” of the soul. You can’t quite name it but you’ve known it’s always been there. What do you *know*? What do you seek that is “*not of this world*”? How do you know if you’ve found it?
- The pandemic has taken much of the flair out of worship and many other gatherings. No lights. No fancy videography. Music that has been ‘unplugged’. It’s been a “*back to the basics*” sort of time. What have you appreciated about this “*stripped down season*”? What has it meant for your faith walk?

Next Steps:

- Plant some mustard seeds this week via a kind word, a note of encouragement, a speaking of a dream out loud to an accountability partner or an initial investment in a new ministry idea.
- Consider writing a parable of your own. Start with “*The Kingdom of God is like...*” and complete the parable with your own example. Bring your parable with you to your next Small Group gathering to share with your peers. Enjoy seeing what your peers see when they see the Kingdom of God.

Pray:

- “*Lord, even in the tiniest of seeds lives the potential of a giant tree. Plant a soul seed in us this day that we might nurture it, learn from it, and water it with prayer that we may see it grow beyond our current imagination. Amen.*”