



Sermon Questions (McLean and Reston)

Date: *September 3, 2023* | Scripture: *Matthew 13:31-33*

(Note: Fairfax received a different sermon and passage this week than McLean and Reston. If you are in a Community Group with people from Fairfax and our other sites, it might be helpful to have one person summarize the sermon from their site before going into questions.)

1. Read the passage from the sermon together. What do you find convicting? What do you find challenging? What do you find confusing?
2. What constitutes your work these days? Traditional employment and/or something else?
3. How do you feel about your work? Do you have a regular sense that your work matters?
4. What is surprising about Jesus' comparisons in these parables?
5. What is significant about the kingdom of heaven starting out small and hidden?
6. What implications does this have for you in your work? What encouragement do these parables offer?
7. How does the gospel fulfill these parables and fuel your work?

Inward Grace in Action

We live in a city marked by power and ambition. That can make it difficult to find satisfaction or purpose in being a "mustard seed." Moreover, we live in a culture that praises being remarkable and unusual and looks down on being unremarkable and ordinary. The kingdom of heaven, however, recognizes the beauty and value of unremarkable, ordinary faithfulness. God plants us where we are, calls us to the ordinary work of trusting him and loving those around us, commissions us to be witnesses of the gospel, and promises us that our labor is not in vain. Occasionally we get to see evidence of that growth, but whether visible or not, God is at work through our work.

- Where have you gotten glimpses of growth that God brings through your work?

ACTION: Spend some time tomorrow lifting up your ordinary work to Jesus. Trace the line back from your small, hidden work to the one who has planted you where you are. Consider meditating on Isaiah 55 and ask God to be at work in your work.