

# Hope City Church

Going Deeper Notes | 05.15.22

2 Chronicles 1:1-12 | Matthew 13:44-58 (MSG) | Psalm 128

**Guidance: The Pursuit of Wise Counsel**

**Icebreaker: The Pursuit of Wise Counsel.** When we gain an awareness of our blind spots, we have an opportunity for our wisdom and influence to increase. Who was the last person to share something difficult with you (about you)? How did you respond? Did you shut them down? Or did you embrace this hard truth about what they are seeing in you in a way that helped to make you better as a person?

## Going Deeper:

- 1) Check out 2 Chronicles 1:1-12 (pg. 332, Life Transformation Bible). Solomon was given the opportunity to ask God for whatever he wanted. Imagine that! How did God respond to his request? Given the same opportunity, what would you ask God for?
- 2) Matthew 13:44-58 (The Message) tell us about three different scenarios that were compared to God's kingdom. In your mind, what does the good fish behave like in comparison to the bad fish? What two or three qualities and characteristics do you notice in the people from Jesus' hometown? What does God want to say to you about your own character and the way the people around you may experience you as a Christ-follower?
- 3) In Psalm 128:1-6 (pg. 473, LTB) there are potentially four areas that emerge as life tasks that will move us from victim to victory, beginning with the fear of the Lord in Psalm 128:1. What are the other life experiences that emerge from this passage and how does it encourage you about the victory God has in store for you when you embrace His guidance for your life?

**Action: The Pursuit of Wise Counsel.** What area of your life do you need to hear from God in right now? And what relationships have you surrounded yourself with and given permission to speak into your life as wise counsel? How often do you take time to sit with this person during the course of a year? How is this relationship helping you to become a person of wise counsel for someone else?

**Prayer:** Lord, help me to become a person of wise counsel for someone around me. You have given me unique insights and experiences that could potentially be used to help someone else through a similar situation that you have brought me through. Holy Spirit, meet me in those places where I can glean from you on how to make the most of the circumstances that I have been through. I know you can use anything that I have endured in order to be an encouragement to someone else. I know that I am adored by you and significant in your eyes, God. Show me those people you have placed in my life to be those person(s) of sound mind and wise counsel for me. Allow my heart to be open to those (hard) truths they may want to share with me. Amen.

## Matthew 13:44-58 (MSG)

"Are you listening to this? Really listening?"

<sup>44</sup> "God's kingdom is like a treasure hidden in a field for years and then accidentally found by a trespasser. The finder is ecstatic—what a find!—and proceeds to sell everything he owns to raise money and buy that field.

<sup>45-46</sup> "Or, God's kingdom is like a jewel merchant on the hunt for exquisite pearls. Finding one that is flawless, he immediately sells everything and buys it.

<sup>47-50</sup> "Or, God's kingdom is like a fishnet cast into the sea, catching all kinds of fish. When it is full, it is hauled onto the beach. The good fish are picked out and put in a tub; those unfit to eat are thrown away. That's how it will be when the curtain comes down on history. The angels will come and cull the bad fish and throw them in the garbage. There will be a lot of desperate complaining, but it won't do any good."

<sup>51</sup> Jesus asked, "Are you starting to get a handle on all this?"

They answered, "Yes."

<sup>52</sup> He said, "Then you see how every student well-trained in God's kingdom is like the owner of a general store who can put his hands on anything you need, old or new, exactly when you need it."

<sup>53-57</sup> When Jesus finished telling these stories, he left there, returned to his hometown, and gave a lecture in the meetinghouse. He stole the show, impressing everyone. "We had no idea he was this good!" they said. "How did he get so wise, get such ability?" But in the next breath they were cutting him down: "We've known him since he was a kid; he's the carpenter's son. We know his mother, Mary. We know his brothers James and Joseph, Simon and Judas. All his sisters live here. Who does he think he is?" They got all bent out of shape.

<sup>58</sup> But Jesus said, "A prophet is taken for granted in his hometown and his family." He didn't do many miracles there because of their hostile indifference.