

SITTING AT THE FEET OF JESUS

The Parables of the Kingdom Matthew 13:1-58

“ ... ‘The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you....’ ” Mt. 13:11a

Day 1: Read Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23.

1. Jesus explains aspects of the kingdom of heaven through parables. The first one in this section is the parable of the sower. Fill out the table below.

	Types of soil	Condition of soil	What happens to the seed?
v. 4			
v. 5, 6			
v. 7			
v. 8			

2. Jesus interprets this parable in verses 18-23. What explanations does he make about the following?

the seed

the lack of productivity of the first three soils

the fruit of the good soil

the farmer

Day 2: Read Matthew 13:10-17; 34-36.

3. The parable of the sower helps the disciples (and us) to understand better why many people refuse to embrace the message of the kingdom that Jesus proclaims.

Why do some people reject the message? (vv. 11, 14, 15a; 2 Cor. 4:4)

What does the parable also say will prevent faith from growing and flourishing in some people? (vv. 20-22)

4. What wonderful gift has been given to the disciples and to us? (vv. 11, 16, 17, 23)
5. The secrets of the kingdom (v. 11) are being slowly revealed to the disciples. What is a central truth that they (and we) must understand? (Mt. 3:16, 17; 16:16, 17) Do you believe this? If not, pray and ask Jesus to open your eyes.
6. On a scale of 1-10, how much did you understand when you first became a believer? Where are you now? What has the Lord used in your life to increase your understanding?

Day 3: Read Matthew 13:24-30; 36-50.

7. The parable of the weeds and the parable of the net describe a cosmic battle between two opposing forces. What are they? (vv. 24-28; 48, 49)
 - a. Who are the two leaders and the people who follow them? (vv. 37-39)
 - b. What is the destiny of the weeds/bad fish? (vv. 30, 40-42, 48-50)
 - c. What is the destiny of the good seed/fish? (vv. 30, 43, 48, 49)
8. The common belief during the Jesus' time was that when the Messiah came he would immediately bring the present evil age to an end and inaugurate the new age of righteousness. How do these parables show that God has a different plan?

Day 4: Read Matthew 13:31-33, 44, 45.

9. The mustard seed and the tiny grains of yeast seem humble and insignificant, but over time they make a huge impact. How is Jesus once again correcting the disciples' wrong expectations about the nature of the kingdom?
10. We are now living in the time between Jesus' first coming to earth to proclaim the message of the kingdom, and his second and final coming, when he will judge the earth and usher in the fulfillment of the kingdom promises. This is called the "already, not yet". How do these two parables give us hope, as we seek to preach the kingdom and make a difference to this world?
11. To what is the kingdom likened? (vv. 44-46)

What did it cost to purchase these things?

12. What are some of the great treasures of the kingdom that you as a believer now possess?

Which one is particularly meaningful to you? Why? (Rom. 5:1-11, 6:23; Eph. 1:3-8)

Day 5: Read Matthew 13:53-58.

13. How does his hometown of Nazareth receive Jesus? Why do you think they react this way?
14. How does the parable of the sower help explain their reaction? (13:18-22)
15. There was some fertile soil in Nazareth. How do we know this? (Acts 1:14, Gal. 1:19)