

- We have done an overview of Chapter 13. I explained much of commentary between parables and also kept Matthews message before us. Matthews purpose is to communicate to the reader that those who live in pursuit of the kingdom will find it and that it will grow extensively in their lives if they continue to look for and receive it. Kingdom is key to understanding chap 13.
- Matthew 13 is another shift in his book. We call it a narrative passage like chapter 5-7 in the sermon on the mount. Matthew is playing back to us the teachings of Jesus. Chapters 11-12 were short videos of what was happening while Jesus and the disciples traveled. In both, Matthew is sending a message.
  - Chapters 11-12 the message was some people receive the kingdom some do not. There are grave consequences for not receiving the Kingdom.
  - Chapter 13 is a group of parables that defines what a persons life looks like who receives the kingdom of heaven.
  - We must remember that parables have one basic truth. That truth is not always obvious. It is hidden just enough to cause the person who wants to find it to be engaged with God. The hearer must participate if they are to gain kingdom understanding.
- As the discourse develops we shall find ample cause to believe that good soil can be found: the kingdom of heaven will grow like mustard seed and penetrate like leaven, and people will rejoice at discovering it as at finding a treasure or a pearl; "hidden things" are meant to be revealed (v. 35). France, R. T. (2007). *The Gospel of Matthew* (p. 509). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publication Co.
- 13:24-43 again presents the impact of the Kingdom of God upon those who hear the Word and receive its influence into their lives.

## I. The Parable of The Wheat and Weeds

- A. The Kingdom of Heaven is like: In the first parable the farmer sows the seed/word. In this parable the farmers sows the seed and the enemy also sows seed in the same field. The focus becomes the end of the age when the Kingdom of God is seen to prevail mightily!
- B. The parts of the parable:
  1. The Son of Man is the farmer.
  2. The field is the world
  3. The good seed is the people of God
  4. The bad seed are those of the evil one. Bad seed is darnel. Looks like wheat until the harvest. It then turns black and can be separated from wheat.
  5. The devil sows the bad seed. The devil is a spoiler! Steal, kill, destroy.
  6. The harvest is the end of the age
  7. The angles are the harvesters.
- C. Truths: Dan. 7:10, 13-14, 22.

1. Every thing is moving towards a time called the end of the age.
  - a) The glory will be at its apex
  - b) Evil will be at its apex
  - c) When it is darkest the light will shine brightest.
2. At that time the weeds will be gathered by angels and thrown into the fire.
  - a) That is everything causes sin
  - b) And all who do evil.
  - c) *"The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."* (Revelation 20:10, NKJV)
  - d) *"Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death."* (Revelation 20:14, NKJV)
  - e) *"And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire."* (Revelation 20:15, NKJV)
3. The righteous will shine like the sun! vs. 43
4. The parable is a call to believe in the Son of Man and truly become a son of the Kingdom of God.

## II. The Parable of the Mustard Seed And Yeast

- A. Jesus uses two illustration to drive home the point that the Kingdom is unstoppable. These two parables thus provide an important counterbalance to the "pessimism" of vv. 10-17 with regard to the revealing of the message outside the disciple group.

France, R. T. (2007). *The Gospel of Matthew* (p. 527). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publication Co.

1. The parable of the Mustard seed
  2. The parable of the yeast.
- B. These two parables carry extensive exaggeration.
1. Little seed becomes a big tree.
    - a) smallest of seeds grows great so that even the birds build nests in the tree.
    - b) Lets look at Daniel. The parable could/would actually bring to mind Dan 4:12-21. In comparing the short lived empire of Nebuchadnezzar and The permanence of the Kingdom of Heaven. *"It had fresh green leaves, and it was loaded with fruit for all to eat. Wild animals lived in its shade, and birds nested in its branches. All the world was fed from this tree. " '...Chase the wild animals from its shade and the birds from its branches. ... " 'Beltshazzar, that was the dream that I, King Nebuchadnezzar, had. Now tell me what it means, for none of the wise men of my kingdom can do so. But you can tell me because the spirit of the holy gods is in you.' "Upon hearing this, Daniel (also known as Beltshazzar) was overcome for a time, frightened by the meaning of the dream. Then the king said to him, 'Beltshazzar, don't be alarmed by the dream and what it means.' "Beltshazzar replied, 'I wish the events foreshadowed in this dream*

*would happen to your enemies, my lord, and not to you! The tree you saw was growing very tall and strong, reaching high into the heavens for all the world to see. It had fresh green leaves and was loaded with fruit for all to eat. Wild animals lived in its shade, and birds nested in its branches.”* (Daniel 4:12-21, NLT)

- c) Again, the point is that the Kingdom that appears to be small in its initial beginnings will be awesome in the end! Then Jesus uses another parable to illustrate the same point.
2. Little yeast goes through three measures of dough.
    - a) A measure was considered to be an amount that would feed 100-150 people and this parable uses three measure and a pinch of yeast added to it.
    - b) The woman ‘hid’ a small amount in the measure. This reminds us of Jesus language to the disciples: “I use parables to hide the truth from the majority of people (those who search find but few do that). But I give to you what has been hidden from others. 13:11-16 and 13:34-35.
    - c) This knowledge as I said earlier brings hope in that the truth will reach way more than just the few!

### III. The Parable of the Treasure, pearl, fish.

- A. These parables are only found in Matthew. “They are about enthusiastic and whole-hearted commitment to the kingdom of heaven, with the secondary theme of costly renunciation for the sake of the greater good. France, R. T. (2007). *The Gospel of Matthew* (p. 539). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publication Co.
  1. Only those who make the Kingdom of God a top priority will enjoy the blessings of heaven.
  2. Also not that the theme of ‘hidden’ still continues in these parables.
  3. “To find the kingdom of heaven is to find the one treasure which outweighs all other valuation. It is worth any cost to seize this unique and unrepeatable opportunity.” France, R. T. (2007). *The Gospel of Matthew* (p. 540). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publication Co.
- B. They are aimed at the Pharisees who have the understanding of God somewhat. But now they must sell it all for the treasure and pearl. 53-57.
- C. vs 52 if you have understood then be like a homeowner who brings from his store-room new gems as well as old!
- D. Once again at the close of the is narrative, Matthew leaves us with the conflict between the religious leaders of the day and Jesus.
  1. The fruit of unbelief is limited production of Kingdom.
  2. “Unbelief” (*apistia*) is used only of these people who reject Jesus; when disciples are rebuked for lack of faith we find the less absolute term *oligopistia* (“little faith”) France, R. T. (2007). *The Gospel of Matthew* (p. 550). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publication Co.