

Kingdom Parables Pt. 2: Matthew 13:24-33, 36-52

- **Intro:**
 - Matthew Begins—Ch. 3—Jesus on the scene, baptized by John, bringing judgment and salvation
 - Up to this point, most people are NOT following him—confused, apathetic, opposed
 - ALL THE CROWD (13:2) are wondering, What's up with this Jesus!? Is he Messiah!?
 - Jesus goes out on a boat and gives them these cryptic parables! Not expecting this!
 - **Kingdom of heaven**—the redemptive rule of God in which he is saving and redeeming and reworking all things according to the work of Christ.
 - **Both an already reality and a future realization! The reign and rule of Christ is BREAKING IN but that kingdom is BUILDING into something far more glorious!**
 - **Pray**—may your KINGDOM come
 - **Seek** FIRST the KINGDOM—we work now to expand the rule and reign of Christ!
- **The Weeds and The Net (24-30, 36-43, 47-50)**
 - **Main Point**—the King's coming judgment is **INEVITABLE and ETERNAL for everyone; unbelievers to eternal hell and separation; believers to eternal glory, reward and joy.**
 - **Weeds:**
 - Judgement contains only 2 categories: wrath (hard, superficial, divided hearts) or grace (fruit-bearing hearts)
 - **Judgement of Nonbelievers = grim moment of tragic condemnation**
 - Thrown into fiery furnace; weeping and gnashing of teeth (v.41-42)
 - Separate—the unrighteous are separated! Total isolation, joylessness!
 - **Judgment of Believers—glorious moment of triumphant celebration**
 - Shine like the sun (v.43)
 - **Net: repeated because this issue is of SUPREME SIGNIFICANCE**
 - **George Whitfield**—the dragnet of history and the judgment of God moves through the sea of mankind and draws everyone to the shore of eternity and ultimate destiny.
 - **THE JUDGMENT IS INEVITABLE AND THE WRATH IS UNIMAGINABLE.**
 - Are you an astonished onlooker or an awe-filled worshipper?
 - Are you abiding in Christ and bearing fruit or apathetically living outside his life-giving grace?
 - Are you hidden in Christ, accepting God's judgement on him as a gift of grace to you OR are you rejecting Christ, bearing the weight of that judgement on yourself?
- **The Mustard Seed and The Leaven (31-33)**
 - **Mustard Seed Main Point**—Outwardly, the kingdom progresses from insignificant beginnings to an extravagant end.
 - From a virgin in a stable, to exile in Egypt, to Nazareth but 3,000 miles away and 2,000 years later, here we are! Extolling the King of the kingdom!
 - **Acts 17:6**—this group of weak, inept disciples virtually turn the world upside down.
 - **Revelation 11:15**—The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign forever and ever."
 - **Habbakuk 2:14**—the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.
 - **Have you connected your particular life to the purposes of God to expand his kingdom throughout the entire universe?**
 - **Are you utilizing your particular gifts, abilities, and passions for the sake of the Kingdom?**
 - **Leaven Main Point**—Inwardly, the kingdom permeates every facet of our lives
 - **The kingdom permeates and transforms our affections, actions, thoughts, motives, ambitions, beliefs.**
 - **What part of you is being held away from the leaven of the kingdom?**

- What sinful thought, habit, belief, attitude or action is enslaving you and robbing you of the joy of the gospel's transforming work?
- The Treasure and the Pearl (44-46)
 - Main Point—the Kingdom is so valuable that if you lose everything on earth but get the Kingdom, it is a joyful trade-off.
 - Philippians 3:7-8—I count all gain as lose compared to knowing Christ Jesus
 - Joy—there is a joy that the Kingdom gives that stands in the face of losing ANYTHING!
 - Hebrews 12:2—for the JOY set before him, he endured the cross
 - Jesus was going to LOSE it all yet he knew he was actually GAINING it all! All that seems like loss is actually paving the way to deeper, more satisfying, eternal GAIN!
 - Jesus NOT INTERESTED in begrudging entrance—“ok, I'll pray the prayer!”
 - Sell Everything—the point here is that you are highlighting where your heart's worship is!
 - It took selling it ALL to buy the field! We JOYFULLY let go of everything that we may take hold of Christ!
 - What are you holding onto right now that is preventing you from taking hold of Jesus?
 - What treasure are you valuing in your heart as more precious than Jesus? To what are you clinging for meaning, value, purpose, approval and acceptance other than Jesus?
 - For those who are SEARCHING (pearl) and those who are SURPRISED (treasure), the kingdom of heaven is of inestimable value to all who submit to it!
- The Master of the House (51-52)
 - Main Point—the treasures of the kingdom, the good news of the gospel, is not only for personal adoration but for public proclamation.
 - Chiasm—this parable bookends the parables and is very similar in nature to sower
 - Sower—the seed of the gospel and the kingdom is cast upon the ground for the sake of some growing and bearing fruit
 - Homeowner—the treasures of the gospel and kingdom are “brought out” and declared by kingdom disciples, both new and old
 - Treasure—new and old covenants—The kingdom depends on the old covenant; it is not rejected but valued and treasured. However, the present revelation of Christ is superior to it and is the fulfillment of it!
 - Task—proclaiming it to the nations—“brings out of his treasure what is new and old”
 - “scribes”—Jesus takes a title usually referred to the professionals and ascribes it to the uneducated, non-professional scribes.
 - Every disciple of Jesus is a scribe of the kingdom—a teacher, proclaimer
 - Jesus DESTROYS the lay-clergy divide...we are ALL MINISTERS!
 - 2 Tim. 2:2—what you have heard, entrust to faithful people who will teach others!
 - Like in the sower, the way disciples of Christ steward the treasure is by SPREADING IT, NOT STORING IT!
 - We now declare to every human everywhere ALL the true things about God and what he has done, namely, in the sending of his Son to live, die and rise again to save sinners. We call those sinners to see Christ as King and to surrender to his kingdom rule now in hope of the glorious consummation of the Kingdom at the end of the age.