

II. Parables Concerning God's Word and the Kingdom

A. Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23 The Sower and the Seed

Bad Soils: Hard Hearts
Fearful Hearts
Choked Hearts

God Sows the Seed
(God's Word)

Good Soil: Receptive Hearts

Spiritual Truths:

1. God graciously plants the words of the gospel in people's hearts.
2. Because of the hardness of some hearts, Satan steals away the words before they can take root and produce fruit.
3. Because of fear of persecution and hardship some hearts refuse to let the gospel take deep enough roots to produce fruit.
4. Because of the entanglements of the cares of the world, the deceitfulness of riches, and (the desire for other things, Mark 4:19) the gospel is choked out of some hearts before fruit can be produced.
5. Hearts that are receptive to the Word, allow the Word to take root and produce fruit.

B. Matthew 7:24-27 The Two Builders

Wise Man = Everyone who builds his life on hearing and doing the words of Jesus

Foolish Man = Everyone who builds his life on anything other than the teachings of Jesus

House = A person's life

Spiritual Truths:

1. Storms come on both the righteous and unrighteous.
2. It is not enough to believe the teachings of Jesus. Obeying his teachings is necessary in order to stand through the storms of life. Matthew 7:21.
3. Everyone who refuses to obey the teachings of Jesus is headed for destruction.

C. Matthew 21:28-32 The Two Sons

First Son: First refused, then went to work

Father called both sons to work

Second Son: First promised, never went to work

Spiritual Truths:

1. God calls all his children to work in the harvest.
2. Like the first son, the tax collectors and prostitutes first rebelled, but later obeyed the call of Jesus.
3. Like the second son, the chief priests and elders said they would serve God, but rejected Jesus Christ.

D. Matthew 11:16-19 The Children Playing

They did not dance when the Son of Man came eating and drinking: They said he is a glutton and drunkard.

Children calling out
(Jesus and John the Baptist)
We played the flute...
We sang a dirge

They did not mourn when John came neither eating or drinking. They said he has a demon.

Spiritual Truths:

1. Those who choose not to believe can always find an excuse.
2. The wise are known by their deeds.

E. Matthew 9:16,17 Unshrunk Patches and New Wine

Unshrunk Patches, New Wine = New Covenant

Old Garments, Old Wineskins = Old Covenant

Spiritual Truths:

1. The old covenant must be rejected.
2. The new covenant must be received.
3. Jesus did not come to “patch up” Judaism.

F. Matthew 13:52 Old and New Treasure

The Good Teacher in God’s Kingdom brings treasure from both the old and new covenants.

Examples: Matthew 5:17-48, 1 John 2:7,8

III. Parables Concerning the Growth of the Kingdom

A. Matthew 13:31,32 The Mustard Seed

Spiritual Truth: The Kingdom starts small but grows large.

B. Matthew 13:33 The Leaven

Spiritual Truth: The Kingdom starts small but grows large.

C. Matthew 13:24-30, 36-40 The Wheat and the Weeds

Wheat: True believers planted by Jesus.

Angels (Reap us)

Weeds: Impostors planted by Satan among the wheat.

Spiritual Truths:

1. Satan tries to disrupt God's work by planting unbelievers alongside believers.
2. At times it is difficult to discern whom true believers are.
3. Fruit produced reveals true believers.
4. Unbelievers will be separated for destruction.
5. Believers will be eternally blessed.

V. Parables of Judgment by the King

A. Matthew 13:47-50 The Net

Angels

Good Fish

Bad Fish

Spiritual Truths:

1. There is a day of judgment for all men.
2. The angels will gather all the righteous.
3. The angels will cast the wicked into torment.

B. Matthew 21:33-44 The Tenants

The Land Owner
God

Servants = Prophets
Son = Jesus

Tenants = Scribes, Pharisees, Chief
Priests (Unbelieving Israel)

Spiritual Truths:

1. The kingdom will be taken away from unbelieving Israel.
2. The kingdom will be given to those who bear fruit.
3. The unbelievers will come to a wretched end.
4. Jesus is the rejected stone who becomes the capstone.

C. Matthew 22:1-14 The Wedding Banquet Refusals

Those who did not deserve to come

1. The Refusers
2. The one improperly dressed

King

Those who accepted the invitation

Spiritual Truths:

1. God graciously invites people to enter and enjoy his kingdom.
2. God's invitation can be rejected both passively and actively.
3. All who reject the invitation will be destroyed.
4. God is determined to find those who will accept his invitation.
5. Suitable attire (robes of righteousness) is required.

D. Matthew 24:42-44 The Unexpected Return

The Lord's return will be at an unexpected time (like a thief).
We must stay spiritually alert - ready for his coming.

E. Matthew 24:45-51 The Faithful & Foolish Servants

Wise & Faithful Servant

Master

Foolish Servant

Spiritual Truths:

1. Believers are like stewards.
2. Those who are serving faithfully when the Master returns will be blessed and promoted.
3. The wicked servants will be surprised and punished.

H. Matthew 25:31-46

The Sheep and the Goats

The Sheep

King

The Goats

Spiritual Truths:

1. At the judgment the righteous will be separated from the wicked.
2. Jesus will reward the righteous for their deeds in his name.
3. The righteous enter a kingdom prepared for them before the foundation of the world.
4. Jesus will send the wicked away because of their sins of omission.
5. The wicked enter eternal hell prepared for the devil and his fallen angels.