**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW**

**LESSON 13 - The Parables**

**Matthew 13:1-58**

**DAY ONE -** Read Matthew 13:1-23 (Parable of the Soils)

**EXTRA INFO:** Parables were a common form of teaching in Judaism that often involved teaching a spiritual or moral truth alongside a physical example that was easier to understand. They were often cast in the form of a story. This first example has Jesus using *soil, seed, birds, thorns, rocks,* and *sun*. For the rest of His Galilean ministry His parables obscured the truth from unbelievers, while making it clearer to His disciples. This veiling was both an act of judgment and of mercy. It was judgment because it kept them in the darkness they loved, but it was mercy because exposure to more truth would increase their condemnation.

1. As Jesus gave the first parable of *a sower* in verses 3-9, list the 4 different places his seeds landed along with the 4 different results.

*Answer here*

2. What stood out to you from the reasons Jesus gave to the disciples for spe*aking in parables* in verses 11-13?

*Answer here*

3. How was this prophecy from Isaiah 6:9-10 fulfilled at this time in Matthew 13:14-15?

*Answer here*

4. How were these disciples blessed in a special way according to Matthew 13:16-17?

*Answer here*

5. a. *Therefore*, describe what happens to those *who receive seed by the wayside*?

*Answer here*

b. What happens when someone *receives the seed on stony places* in verses 20-21?

*Answer here*

c. What happens to the ones *who* *receive seed among the thorns*?

*Answer here*

d. What would happen to those *who receive seed on the good ground* in verse 23?

*Answer here*

**DAYS TWO & THREE -** Read Matthew 13:24-46 (Kingdom Parables)

1. a. What did Jesus say *the kingdom of heaven is like* in verses 24-26?

*Answer here*

b. Why did the owner tell the servants to leave the tares in the field in verses 27-29?

*Answer here*

c. Then, what would happen at *the harvest* according to verse 30?

*Answer here*

2. What was special about the mustard seed as it was compared to *the kingdom of heaven*?

*Answer here*

**EXTRA INFO:** Jesus’ point here seems to be that in spite of great opposition, represented by the 3 bad soils and the tares, His kingdom will start small like the mustard seed and then grow in power and influence by the presence of the true church.

3. How does verse 33 speak about *the kingdom of heaven* as a pervading good influence?

*Answer here*

4. As Jesus continued to speak in parables, how was this a fulfillment of Psalm 78:2?

*Answer here*

5. As Jesus began to give more details about the parable of the tares to only his disciples, who did He identify first in verse 37?

*Answer here*

6. How were the rest of the characters in this parable identified in verses 38-39?

*Answer here*

7. *Therefore,* explain what will happen at *the end of the age* according to verse 40?

*Answer here*

8. What extra information is given in verses 41-42?

*Answer here*

9. Then, what will happen to the righteous in verse 43?

*Answer here*

10. How do the parables of *hidden treasure* and *the one pearl of great price* point to the same thing regarding the worth of true salvation.

*Answer here*

**DAY FOUR -** Read Matthew 13:47-52 (Judgment and Proclamation)

1. How is the kingdom of heaven like a dragnet in verses 47-48?

*Answer here*

2. What will this look like *at the end of the age* in verses 49-50?

*Answer here*

3. What does 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8 say about angels being used to judge?

*Answer here*

4. How does Matthew 13:52 tell the disciples to not discard any old truths for the new?

*Answer here*

5. What happened when Jesus finished these parables?

*Answer here*

**DAY FIVE -** Read Matthew 13:53-58. Re-read Mark 6:1-6 (The Power of Unbelief)

1. Then, where did Jesus go and what did He do when He got to this place?

*Answer here*

2. How did His own *countrymen* respond to Him in verse 54?

*Answer here*

3. How did these people still see Him according to verses 55-56?

*Answer here*

4. What did their attitude lead to in verse 57, and how did Jesus respond?

*Answer here*

5. What was the result of their unbelief in verse 58?

*Answer here*

**DISCUSSION:**  As we consider the value of *the kingdom of heaven* today and all that it still represents, we too must ask ourselves: are we also ready to give up all that we have for true salvation in Christ? Read Matthew 16:24-26.

*Answer here*