

## Matthew 13 - Portraits of the Truth

### ▼Intro/Review

- Legalism, by whose power, show us a sign.
- The law is important, being able to recognize by whose power is important, knowing the signs are important. But they mean little unless they go somewhere and do something.

### ▼A word on parables

- Heads up - don't go crazy with the details, take in the big picture.

#### ▼13:10-17, 34-35

- Jesus was a rabbi, this is how they taught.
- As we have said, we are accountable for the truth that we have been given.
- Even Nicodemus had a hard time with the stuff Jesus said. John 3.

### ▼13:1-9, 18-23 Parable of the Sower

- Common rabbinic style/model

- 13:1-9 walk through

#### ▼13:18-23 About believers or unbelievers? Discuss.

##### ▼18-19 Path/wayside

- Seed = word of the kingdom, Soils = Conditions of our hearts. In each case there is nothing wrong with the seed. The issue is the condition of the dirt. Importance of good seed vs marshmallows.
- Path, wayside - hard, foot-worn paths through the fields. Seeds were either scattered by hand, or by donkey with bags with holes. = hard heart.
- Birds = Satan messing with you.

##### ▼20-21 Rocky ground

- Rocky ground = inconsistent heart.
- Sun = Exposure to conflict with the world over the word.

##### ▼22 Thorny ground

- Thorny ground = ready heart, overcrowded
- Thorns = Cares of the world, deceitfulness of riches. Blackberry bushes by 29th street

##### ▼23 Good ground

- Good ground = Ready heart that receives and produces
- Produced grain = Hears the word, understands it, consequently does it

#### ▼How is your heart? How can you tell? Look at the results. Are you understanding and doing?

- Yes? Fantastic. That's not pride, that's healthy and normal. Always room for more, doesn't mean failure.
- No? Pray for the HS to plow up your heart, plow up your life. Will be uncomfortable but anything less is a barren field. God wants to use you and for you to be fruitful, productive.

### ▼Kingdom parables

#### ▼13:24-30, 36-43 Wheat and tares

- 13:24-30 Walk through. Weeds, tares, Bearded Darnel. Can't tell difference until ripe.

#### ▼13:36-43

- Kingdom = a man sowing good seed
- The man = the Son of Man, Jesus
- The field = the world
- Good seed = Believers. Interesting that a seed has to die before it bears fruit. DTS.
- Weeds = Unbelievers

- Enemy = Satan. Who is our enemy?
- Harvest time = End of the age. Jewish view of two ages: this one and the one to come.
- Reapers = angels
- The point - There is a difference between people, therefore there is a different destiny. Do all roads lead to God? Yes, but get to stay. Not because of effort, but nature (wheat or weed?).
- ▼ 13:31-32 Mustard seed
  - Kingdom = mustard seed
  - Jewish culture used mustard seed as example of smallest thing. Not a scientific inaccuracy.
  - It just takes one seed to sprout and grow in make a difference in the world around it.
- ▼ 13:33 Leaven
  - Kingdom = leaven
  - Discuss use of leaven as a picture.
  - Jews would have seen what this is, a fellowship offering.
  - The gospel is supposed to permeate our lives, to make a difference in everything we are.
- ▼ 13:44 Hidden treasure
  - Kingdom = treasure
  - Discuss no banks, how people hid valuables
  - The kingdom is worth all that you have and all that you are, even if it costs you everytthing.
- ▼ 13:45-46 Pearl
  - Kingdom = merchant
  - From God's perspective, you are worth everything He had, which was His Son Jesus.
- 13:47-50 Dragnet. Parallels wheat and tares
- ▼ 13:51-52 Do you get it?
  - For them, doesn't replace but adds to, augments, fulfills what they had been taught their whole lives.
  - God uses our past, the good and the bad, to build on and use for the future.
- 13:53-58 Who do you think you are? Principle we can learn is that when we have really been changed by the gospel, people will notice and either love it or leave it.
- Wrap - purpose points above