

“The Kingdom of Heaven is...”

Scripture: Matthew 13:1-52

THE SEVEN PARABLES — A MAP OF THE KINGDOM

1. The Sower (v3-23)
2. The Wheat & Weeds (v24-30)
3. The Mustard Seed (v31-32)
4. The Yeast (v33)
5. The Hidden Treasure (v 44)
6. The Pearl of Great Price (v45-46)
7. The Net (v47-50)

FOUR TRUTHS ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Truth 1: The Kingdom is present but hidden.

Truth 2: The Kingdom is expanding, and we are all a part of it.

Truth 3: The Kingdom is worth everything

Luke 19:10 ESV - “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost”

Truth 4: The Kingdom is moving toward a conclusion

Questions for individual or small group study

OBSERVATION (TEXT):

- What does Jesus say has been “given” to the disciples but not to others? (Matt 13:1–11)
- What happens when someone hears the word of the Kingdom but doesn’t understand it? (Matt 13:19)
- According to Jesus, what is the condition of those who see and hear but don’t understand? (Matt 13:13)

INTERPRETATION (THEOLOGY):

- Why is the Kingdom’s presence described as being in “secret form” (Matt 13:11) and how does this contrast with people’s expectations.
- How does yeast transforming dough illustrate the way the Kingdom operates in the world?
- Why would these parables have been especially important for disciples confused about whether Jesus was truly the Messiah?

APPLICATION (TODAY):

- In what small or seemingly insignificant ways has God worked in your life?
- How can you be a positive presence among your non-Christian friends and relatives?
- What are some little things you can do to make a big impact for Christ?
- What does this passage say to those who don’t feel talented, gifted, or brilliant?
- Two primary applications of Matthew 13
 - » Humbly and joyfully receive the message of the Kingdom
 - » Confidently and urgently spread the message of the Kingdom