

Kingdom Parables

Matthew 13

The Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1-23)

- A Hard Heart
- A Shallow Heart
- A Strangled Heart
- An Open Heart

The Parable of the Weeds (Matthew 13:24-30)

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The Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31-32)

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The Leaven (Matthew 13:33)

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Application:

Question:

The Parable of the Weeds

²⁴He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away.²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also.²⁷ And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ ²⁸He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, “Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.”’”

The Mustard Seed and the Leaven

³¹He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. ³²It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³He told them another parable. “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.”

Prophecy and Parables Matthew 13:34-35

The Parable of the Weeds Explained Matthew 13:36-43

³⁴ All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable. ³⁵ This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet:^[e]

“I will open my mouth in parables;

I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world.”

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷ He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one,³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴² and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

A. The Kingdom: For Listeners Only (13:1–23)

SUPPORTING IDEA: *Many people will reject the truth because of Satanic opposition, their own hard hearts, and because God will blind them further. But some will receive the truth and bear spiritual fruit.*

B. The Kingdom: The Faithful Must Coexist with Evil until Judgment (13:24–30)

SUPPORTING IDEA: *Kingdom servants should take courage in the midst of an evil world, finding hope in the justice and reward of the final judgment.*

C. The Kingdom: Surprising Impact (13:31–33)

SUPPORTING IDEA: *While God’s kingdom appears to start small—almost invisible—we can take hope in the assurance that it is growing steadily and will achieve its promised glory and power out of all proportion to its small beginnings.*

D. The King Begins to Speak Only in Parables to the Crowds (13:34–35)

SUPPORTING IDEA: *The Lord makes his truth accessible to those who seek it but difficult to find for those who resist it.*

E. The Kingdom: Judgment on Evil, Exaltation of the Righteous (13:36–43)

SUPPORTING IDEA: *Kingdom citizens should take courage in the midst of an evil world, finding hope in the justice and reward of the final judgment.*

- The faithful must coexist with evil until judgment day.
- The final judgment will bring God’s justice and rewards.