

The Gospel of Matthew

The gospel of the Messiah, His Kingdom and His People

LESSON 11

MATTHEW 13

Chapter 12 recounted Jesus' increasing confrontations with the Pharisees and His fulfillment of prophecy concerning "the Lord's servant." The Pharisees' opposition to Jesus grew stronger—to the point of rejecting the plain working of God. And the Lord stated in stronger terms His demand for faith and true righteousness from His followers. In the context of this conflict, Matthew first recounts the Lord's teaching in parables.

I. Chapter 13: 10 —17, 34 —35

After Jesus tells the parable of the sower (or the fields), the disciples ask Him why he taught in parables.

Question 1: Jesus tells His disciples that He taught them things that weren't taught to others—at least not in the same way. How does Jesus' statement help explain why we must follow the apostles' teachings? vv. 11, 17.

Question 2: What did the apostles have "to which more would be given"?

Question 3: What does Jesus' reference to Isaiah 6: 9-10 and 32:1-3, and Psalm 78 indicate is His purpose in His teaching in parables? vv. 14-17, 35.

II. Chapter 13: 1 —9, 18 —23

Jesus begins this teaching in parables with a story we call the parable of the sower.

Question 4: What principles that Jesus has taught since the Sermon on the Mount do we see reflected in the response to the "word of the kingdom" by the various "soils"? See 5:3, 6, 20; 6:33; 10:38; 11:15; 12:32-33.

Question 5: How might this parable have encouraged His disciples to do the work He gave them in Ch. 10?

III. Chapter 13: 24 —30, 36 —43

The weed referred to in the parable of the weeds (or "the wheat and tares") was apparently the darnel, a plant that looked closely like wheat until it was grown.

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Question 6: What sobering truth does Jesus tell His disciples in the parable of the weeds concerning Satan's opposition to Him and His work? *See also* 10:24-25.

Question 7: What claim does Jesus make about himself in this parable? vv. What confidence can His disciples take from its conclusion? vv. 41-43.

Question 8: Is Jesus repudiating an earlier criticism of him by the Pharisees? 9:11.

IV. Chapter 13: 31 - 33

Jesus' first parables seem to address the response of people to His kingdom and the efforts of its enemies against the kingdom. In the parable of the Mustard Seed and Leaven, the Lord seems to turn to what the kingdom will achieve in the world.

Question 9: How will Jesus' kingdom first appear to the world? What will it ultimately achieve?

V. Chapter 13: 44 —46

The parable of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl of Great Price.

Question 10: How should people respond to the Kingdom taught by Jesus' disciples? *See also* 6:33.

VI. Chapter 13: 47 —50

The Parable of the Net.

Question 11: How widely should the disciples preach Christ's kingdom? *See* 9: 12.

VII. Chapter 13: 51 —52

Question 12: What are the disciples to do with teaching they received from Jesus?

VIII. Chapter 13: 53 —58

Question 13: How do the people in Nazareth respond to Jesus? What are the consequences of their decision?