



Week Ten

Parables of the King

Matthew 13

Read and Summarize

Read chapter 13. Provide a brief summary in one to two sentences, using your own words to capture the main events.

Matthew 13

Clarifying the Context

1. Matthew 13 is known as the “parables discourse.” It is the third of five discourses in the book of Matthew, and in it, Jesus teaches using parables to reveal truths about the Kingdom of God. A parable is a short, simple story designed to teach a moral, ethical, or spiritual lesson, often by comparing everyday situations to deeper truths.
 - a. In verses 10-17, Jesus explains why He chose to speak in parables. Summarize His explanation in your own words.
 - b. In that explanation, Jesus uses prophecy from Isaiah 6:9-10. What do you think it means “to see but not see and to hear but not hear”?

- c.** Given what we've seen in the previous chapters and what Jesus explains about the purpose of the parables, why do you think He chooses at this time to teach using this method?

Digging into the Details

Matthew 13

- 2.** Jesus begins this discourse with the parable of the sower. Look at verses 3-9 and 18-23.
- a.** What are the 4 different types of soil Jesus describes in verses 3-9? What happens to the seed that lands on each soil?

Soil

Outcome

1.

2.

3.

4.

- b.** In Jesus' day, Israel was an agrarian (farming) society. People would have known that a typical harvest on good soil would yield approximately 30-fold. If 30-fold was the baseline for a good harvest, what do you think a 100-fold harvest would symbolize? (See Genesis 26:12)

- c.** According to Jesus' explanation in verses 18-23, what does the "seed" represent, and what is His explanation for each soil's result?

Seed

Explanation

1.

2.

3.

4.

- d.** How would the parable of the sower have been instructive for the disciples, who had recently been called to be workers of the harvest?

- e.** How is it instructive for us?

- 3.** Next, Jesus tells the parable of the weeds. Look back at verses 24-29 and 36-42.

- a.** Who sows the good seed?

- b.** Who sows the weeds?

- c.** What does the field represent?

- d.** Whom does the good seed represent?

- e.** Whom do the weeds represent?

- f.** Why does the master tell his servants not to pull up the weeds immediately? (verse 29)

- g.** What does the harvest represent?

- h.** What will eventually happen to the weeds versus the good seed at harvest?

- i.** In what ways are you tempted to prematurely judge those who resemble the "weeds" in your life, and how can you show grace instead?

- 4.** In verses 31-33, Jesus tells two other parables—the parable of the mustard seed and the parable of the yeast. In them, He explains that both the mustard seed and the yeast represent the Kingdom of Heaven.
- a.** What do they have in common regarding their starting size versus their final impact?
 - b.** The Jews were expecting and hoping for a victorious Messiah who would free them from Roman rule. How do these parables correct the disciples' (and our) expectations that God's Kingdom would arrive with massive, immediate power?
 - c.** How have you seen God use small beginnings to produce a large result in your life or community?
- 5.** In verses 44-46, we find the parable of the hidden treasure and the parable of the pearl of great price.
- a.** What actions do both the man who finds the treasure and the merchant who finds the pearl take upon finding them?
 - b.** What are these parables intended to convey to the disciples and to us?

c. If you lived as if you truly believe that knowing Jesus is like finding a hidden treasure, how would your daily priorities (e.g., time, money, goals) change?

d. What is something you are struggling to "sell" (let go of) in order to fully embrace the joy of the Kingdom?

6. The final parable Jesus tells is the parable of the net. (verses 47-50)

a. Explain the parable in your own words.

b. To which previous parable is it similar?

c. Why would Jesus tell two similar parables but using different analogies? (Think back to many of the disciples' previous occupations.)

- 7.** In verses 51-52, Jesus asks his disciples if they understand these things. He then describes a "scribe" who brings out of his treasure "what is new and what is old." It signifies that those who understand His teachings (new) can connect them with Old Testament foundations (old), becoming effective teachers who share fulfilling, comprehensive truth. How can you connect the teachings of Jesus with the foundations of the Old Testament to become an effective disciple?
- 8.** Look back over all seven of the parables Jesus told. Which one has impacted you the most? Why? How might you begin to live differently in light of these truths?

Attribute of God & Application

- What did this week's study reveal to you about King Jesus and His Kingdom?
- How does this chapter encourage or challenge you in your life currently?

**Spend some time praising God for who He is and for what He has done.
Ask Him to help you as you seek to live in light of His Word this week.**

