



Matthew

Lesson 13

In the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7, Jesus sat down and taught the disciples some truths about the difference between the way they had previously experienced God's presence, identified by the outward obedience to the Law, and the new experience of His presence by becoming Kingdom people with new hearts. This new Kingdom heart comes through genuine repentance from sin and a single-minded obedience to God. With this new heart, the Law is fulfilled by the agape love that flows out from us because of the Spirit of God living in us. In Chapters 8-9, He continued to present Himself as the Messiah through teaching about the Kingdom and healing many from all kinds of diseases and demon possession. In Chapters 10-11, He sends out His twelve disciples with His authority to teach and heal so that all the cities in the surrounding areas will hear the

"gospel of the Kingdom." Jesus also goes out to the surrounding areas to preach this message (Matthew 11:1). In Chapter 13, somewhat in the same style as the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus sits down with some of His followers to teach them what the Kingdom of Heaven is like. His method of teaching is in parables. Parables are sayings or stories that seek to drive home a point by illustrations or visual examples from the familiar surroundings of everyday life. This was a common teaching method for rabbis of this area so this style would have been familiar to those listening. These parables would be simple enough for those who were honestly seeking the Kingdom to understand His message, but those who were not truly repentant would not catch their meanings (Matthew 13:10-17).

Read Chapter 13 (See also Mark 4:1-20 and Luke 8:1-15)

1. *Read the example of an Old Testament parable in 2 Samuel 12:1-15. Why did Nathan confront David? Vs. 1. Why do you think Nathan used a parable to confront David?*

2. *If David hadn't been willing to admit his sin, how might he have reacted differently to Nathan's parable? How can this relate to Jesus' use of parables and the different effects it had on those who heard them?*



Besides the use of parables as a teaching method, Jesus is using the “remez” method of addressing the crowd by quoting Old Testament verses that would have been known by the people. They would have been able to identify what His meaning was by the “hint” given in the verses as they were used in the Old Testament text.

3. What two Old Testament prophecies (Matthew 13:14-15 and 37) does Jesus quote to identify His use of parables, and what was the warning those verses gave to the people back at that time they were said that would correlate to what Jesus is teaching now?

4. From vs. 3-23, explain the details of the Parable of the Sower.

“The seed is the _____.” Luke 8:11

4 Types of soil	Explanation
Vs. 4	vs. 19:
vs. 5-6:	Vs. 20-21
vs. 7:	Vs. 22
vs. 8:	Vs. 23

5. How does Jesus describe the “good soil” in Luke 8:15? Since Jesus is teaching the “gospel of the Kingdom,” what point about the Kingdom do you think He is making in this parable?

6. In the remainder of Chapter 13, Jesus gives seven Kingdom parables each one beginning with “the Kingdom of Heaven is like” (or “compared to”). Give a short synopsis of each in the following diagram. Jesus gives an explanation for the first parable in vs. 36-43. Give your explanation of the others as to what you think Jesus is saying to us about His (our) Kingdom.

<u>“Kingdom of Heaven is like...”</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
vs. 24-30:	
vs. 31-32:	
vs. 33:	
vs. 44:	
vs. 45-46:	
vs. 47-50:	

7. Where did Jesus go when He finished teaching these people? Why did the people of His hometown “take offense at Him” (NAS)?

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
