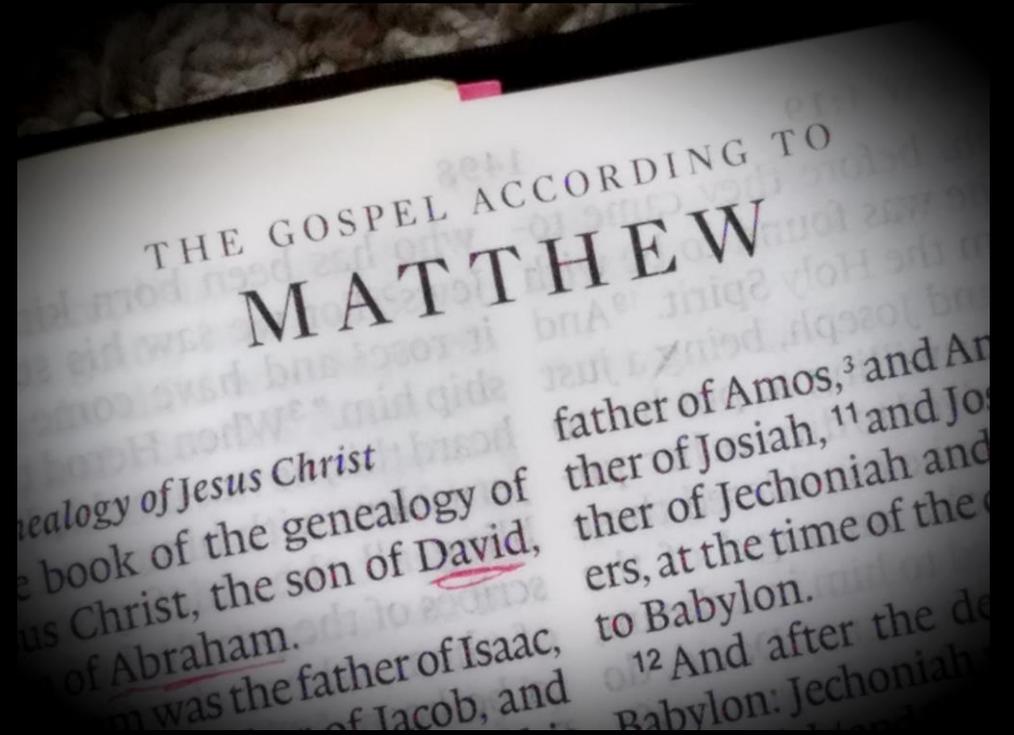


# Verse by Verse

## Matthew 13



# Christ's Teaching in Matthew

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## Christ's Teaching in Matthew:

- Sermon on the Mount                      Matthew 5 – 7
- Commissioning of the Twelve            Matthew 10
- Parables of the Kingdom                  Matthew 13
- Message on Community Life              Matthew 18
- Seven Woes                                  Matthew 23
- Olivet Discourse                             Matthew 24 – 25

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# Matthew 13 Introduction

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- The parables are common earthly stories on the surface.
- Jesus uses them to speak of heavenly realities.
- The word **parable** comes from a word meaning “to throw alongside of.”
- The earthly story helps us see a parallel heavenly truth.

# Matthew 13 Introduction

- All the parables in **Matthew 13** are linked together into one overall theme – **the kingdom of heaven**.
- They help us to understand what God is doing in the world today and how he is doing it.

# Matthew 13 Introduction

- At this point in his ministry, the response to Jesus was becoming more and more polarized.
- These parables will show us that this polarized response is going to continue to the end of the age.

# Matthew 13 Introduction

- Usually a parable is meant to teach **one main truth**.
- We take the story as a whole to learn its **one lesson**.
- Sometimes they become a little more like **allegory**, where the details each point to something specific.

# Matthew 13 Introduction

## Seven Parables in Matthew 13

1. The Sower
2. The Weeds
3. The Mustard Seed
4. The Leaven
5. The Hidden Treasure
6. The Pearl
7. The Net

# The Sower 13:1-8

# The Sower 13:1-8

- There is the first parable.
- Jesus explains it later on, so no sense saying anything more until we read that.
- We will come back to it in just a bit.

# The Purpose of Parables 13:10-17

# The Purpose of Parables 13:10-17

- The parables are a response to the increasing polarization surrounding Jesus.
- For those of us who desire to hear Jesus, they increase our understanding.
- For those who are unwilling to listen, these parables tend to obscure the truth.

# The Purpose of Parables 13:10-17

- Responding to Jesus is more a matter of the **heart** than of the **head**.
- It is connected more to our **attitude** than our **aptitude**.
- If we desire to learn from him, he will gladly teach us.

# The Sower Explained 13:18-23

# The Sower Explained 13:18-23

- People respond to the word of God in different ways.
- Only one of them is really the right response.
- Jesus is challenging us to consider how we respond to the word – which is really our response to him.

# The Sower Explained 13:18-23

- For some people the word never sinks in at all.
- For others the first response is enthusiastic, but the excitement does not last.
- Then there are those who respond positively but not positively enough. They are distracted by other things.

# The Sower Explained 13:18-23

- The last group is committed.
- Their faith is real and their roots grow deep.
- They are not distracted by any earthly thing.
- They persevere. They stick with their walk with Christ.
- The result is good fruit and lots of it.

The Weeds 13:24-30

# The Weeds 13:24-30

- *Lolium temulentum* (Darnel Ryegrass) is a weed of wheat farmlands. Even a few grains of this plant will adversely affect crop quality. Its seeds are poisonous to people and livestock. It is very difficult to separate the seeds of *L. temulentum* from those of wheat and other small grain crops as they are similar in size and weight. *L. temulentum* can be a host to a variety of crop pests and diseases.
- Hand weeding can control this species although this is difficult to undertake early because of the resemblance between this weed and the infested wheat crops.

*Lolium temulentum*

Darnel Ryegrass



*Triticum durum*

Durum variety of Wheat



# The Weeds 13:24-30

- Again, Jesus will explain this a little later.
- Let's just let it sink in and move on to the next two parables.

# The Mustard Seed 13:31-32

# The Mustard Seed 13:31-32



*The birds in the Parable of the Sower represented Satan ... [This suggests] that the parable teaches an abnormal growth of the kingdom of heaven, one that makes it possible for Satan to work in it. Certainly “Christendom” has become a worldwide power with a complex organization of many branches.*

– Warren Wiersbe (1929 – 2019)

# The Mustard Seed 13:31-32



*Some make this parable teach the worldwide success of the Gospel. But that would contradict what Jesus taught in the first parable.*

*– Warren Wiersbe (1929 – 2019)*

The Leaven 13:33

# The Leaven 13:33

- The woman “hid” the leaven in the meal.
- Leaven is not a positive symbol in the Bible. Later on Jesus will say, **Matthew 16:6** (ESV)

“Watch and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”

# The Leaven 13:33

*The figure of leaven is uniformly used in Scripture to typify evil. This is no exception to the rule. All the outward manifestations of Church life have become more or less corrupt, contaminated by the evil leaven which was introduced into the Church of Jesus Christ by paganizing influences.*

– G. Campbell Morgan (1929 – 2019)

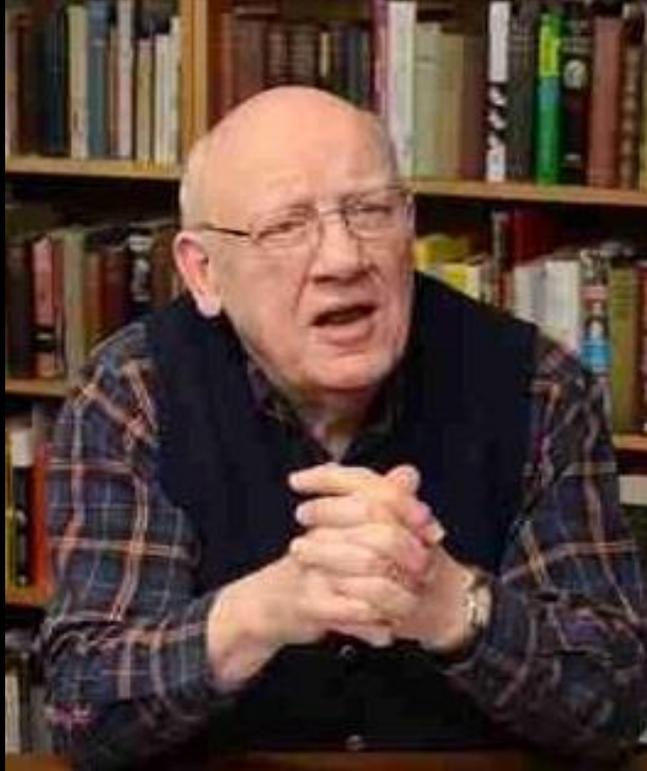


# The Leaven 13:33

- The Parables of the **Mustard Seed** and the **Leaven** both teach that the church will grow large from a small, quiet beginning.
- They also both indicate, however, that not all of this growth will be good or healthy.

# The Leaven

13:33



*Jesus used leaven to picture hypocrisy, false teaching, and worldly compromise. Paul used leaven to picture carnality in the church as well as false doctrine. Sin is like leaven (yeast): It quietly grows, it corrupts, and it “puffs up.”*

– Warren Wiersbe (1929 – 2019)

# The Leaven 13:33

- When Christ explains the Parable of the Weeds we will see another kind of ungodly growth.
- But first a word of commentary from Matthew, our author.

# Parables and Prophecy 13:34-35

# Parables and Prophecy 13:34-35

- Matthew refers back to **Psalm 78:2**.
- Jesus was not the first to use stories to explain a larger spiritual truth.
- Now Jesus will explain the **Weeds**.

# The Weeds Explained 13:36-43

# The Weeds Explained 13:36-43

- The “sons of the kingdom” and the “sons of the evil one” are not always easy to tell apart, especially at first.
- Both of them are out there operating in the world – and we cannot expect the world to know the difference.
- Both may look like servants of God, but the difference is as great as that between Christ and the devil.

# The Weeds Explained 13:36-43

- Paul said this is 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup> For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. <sup>14</sup> And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. <sup>15</sup> So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.

# The Weeds Explained 13:36-43

- Theologians sometimes make a distinction between the **visible** and the **invisible church**.
- The **visible church** consists of all those who call themselves Christians – every outward form of Christianity.
- The **invisible church** is made up of all truly born-again believers, new creatures in Christ, indwelt by the Holy Spirit.
- The world cannot tell the difference, but God knows those who are his.

The Hidden Treasure 13:44

# The Hidden Treasure 13:44

- Many look at this and see that we need to sell all we have to buy the treasure of a relationship with Christ.
- Christ is worth all we have and much more besides.
- The rich young ruler should not have walked away sad.
- He should have sold everything, given it to the poor and followed Jesus Christ.

# The Hidden Treasure 13:44

- On the other hand, Jesus just told us in 13:38 that “the field is the world.”
- Jesus is the one who gave up everything, paying the price to redeem the world from sin and death.
- Jesus gains the treasure of those who believe out of the field that is the world.

The Pearl 13:45-46

# The Pearl 13:45-46

- Again, many would see here the value of following Jesus.
- We enter the kingdom knowing that by doing so we have to be willing to leave everything else behind.
- We want to own this “pearl of great value” more than anything else.

# The Pearl 13:45-46

- Or again, since our salvation is a gift to us, we might see Jesus as the buyer of the pearl.

- Acts 20:28 (ESV)

<sup>28</sup> Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

“bought” in NIV

“purchased” in HCSB, KJV, TLB, Mounce, NKJV, NLT

The Net 13:47-50

# The Net 13:47-50

- Here is the ultimate separation – the final judgment.
- If we had any expectation that everyone would put their faith in Christ, Jesus puts that to rest.
- If those who reject Christ had any hope that they would somehow escape judgment, that too was wrong.

# The Net 13:47-50

- Not all believe.
- No one escapes.
- At the end of the age, judgment will be final – no do-over, no makeup test, no reincarnation and no one is excused.
- Trust Jesus today.

# The Net 13:47-50

- The first parable showed us that not all would believe.
- The second parable taught us that it might be hard to tell the difference, especially from the beginning.
- This last parable shows us the consequence of unbelief.
- Those who reject Jesus will be rejected by Jesus in the end.

New and Old Treasure 13:51-52

# New and Old Treasure 13:51-52

- Jesus reminds them his disciples of the continuity between what he is teaching them and what they already know.
- The New does not contradict the Old, but grows out of it.
- That is why the Old Testament makes up most of our Bible.

# Jesus Is Rejected 13:53-58

# Jesus Is Rejected 13:53-58

- The people of Nazareth were impressed with Jesus, but they were also too familiar with him for their own good.
- They used their familiarity as an excuse to reject him.
- Their lack of faith and lack of spiritual insight meant that Jesus would not do much for them.
- This also illustrates the polarized response to the word that the parables teach us.

# Seven Parables in Matthew 13

# Seven Parables in Matthew 13

1. The Sower
2. The Weeds
3. The Mustard Seed
4. The Leaven
5. The Hidden Treasure
6. The Pearl
7. The Net

# Lessons Learned

1. Not everyone will respond positively to Jesus.
2. Servants of the devil and servants of God are sometimes hard to tell apart.
3. The church will grow large from small beginnings, but not all of this growth will be healthy or genuine.
4. Corruption will grow from within.

# Lessons Learned

5. On the one hand, Jesus is worth more than anything we could ever hope to possess.
6. On the other hand, he has bought us by his own blood, paying the price for the sins of the world.
7. The result of rejecting Jesus is rejection by Jesus in the end.

# Matthew 13    A Prayer

# Matthew 13    A Prayer

- Heavenly Father,
- Christ has taught us today about the reality and the danger of not responding positively and passionately to him.
- Please help us to respond with unswerving commitment.
- Let your word find good soil as it falls upon our hearts.
- Let there be no corrupting or false influences in our faith.

# Matthew 13    A Prayer

- Please keep us from being distracted by the enticements of this world.
- And let us hold onto Jesus firmly, holding nothing back, remembering that he already gave everything for us.
- And help us to continuously grow and bear fruit as long as you allow us to live.
- In Christ,
- Amen.

# Matthew 11    A Prayer

- From the Website BioNET EAFRINET (Accessed May 9, 2019)
- [https://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/eafrinet/weeds/key/weeds/Media/Html/Lolium temulentum \(Darnel Ryegrass\).htm](https://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/eafrinet/weeds/key/weeds/Media/Html/Lolium%20temulentum%20(Darnel%20Ryegrass).htm)
- Image of Darnel by Amin Jagel
- Image of wheat from <https://www.seednet.com.au/product/dba-bindaroi>