### Matthew

## Chapter 13

1Then one day, Jesus came out of the house and he was sitting by the sea, 2when a huge crowd came and gathered around him. So, he stepped into a boat and [started teaching] those who were standing there on the beach, 3and he did so using parables… For he said:  
  
 ‘{Look!} A farmer went out to do planting,  
 4And some of his seeds fell by the road,  
 Where birds quickly came there and ate them.  
  
 5‘Others fell among rocks where there wasn’t much soil,  
 Yet, they quickly started to sprout.  
 6But when the sun rose, they were scorched,  
 And they withered, because they couldn’t spread roots.  
  
 7‘Still others fell among briers,  
 Which [quickly] grew and choked them all out.  
  
 8‘Yet the rest fell upon the good soil,  
 And there they started producing [much] fruit…  
 This one 60, that one 100,  
 And just 30 for another…  
  
 9‘Let those who have ears, pay attention!’  
  
  
  
10Well later, the disciples came up to him and asked him why he was speaking to the crowd in parables.  
  
11And he replied:  
  
 ‘Although you’ve been allowed to understand the mysteries of the Kingdom of [God], they haven’t.  
  
 12‘So, those who have will be given more,  
 And they’ll have more than enough.  
 But, as for those who don’t have…  
 Even what they own will be taken from them.  
  
 13‘Therefore, this is why I’m speaking to them in parables; because when they look they can’t see, and when they listen they don’t hear or understand the meaning of it.  
  
 14‘And in this, the prophecy of IsaiAh is being fulfilled in them that says:  
  
 ‘By listening, you’ll hear, but not understand,  
 And by looking, you’ll look, but not see.  
 15For the hearts of these people have grown thick;  
 So their ears now listen very slowly,  
 And all their eye lids are closed.  
 So they’re unable to see with their eyes,  
 And they can’t hear with their ears,  
 Nor can they understand in their hearts,  
 Then turn back, so that I can heal them.’  
 [Isaiah 6:9]  
  
 16‘However, your eyes are blest because they can see, as are your ears, because they can hear.  
  
 17‘I tell you the truth: many of the Prophets and righteous men wished to see the things that you’re seeing today… But they didn’t see them. And [they wished] to hear the things that you’re hearing… But they didn’t hear them.  
  
 18‘So now, listen to the [meaning of the] parable of the farmer that planted:  
  
 19‘Whenever someone hears about the Kingdom but doesn’t understand it, the wicked one comes and snatches away whatever has been planted in his heart. This is the one who grew alongside the road.  
  
 20‘As for the one who grew among the rocks; he hears the word and quickly accepts it with joy. 21But because he has no roots, he just lasts a short time… When hard times or persecution come along because of the word, he’s immediately trapped.  
  
 22‘As for the one who grew among the thistles: This one hears the word, but the concerns of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke out the word, so he doesn’t produce any fruit.  
  
 23‘But as for the one who’s planted on good soil: He hears the word, understands it, and actually puts out fruit… This 100, that one 60, and the other 30.’  
  
24Well after that, he gave them another parable. He said:  
  
 ‘The Kingdom of the heavens is much like a man  
 Who planted good seeds in his field.  
 25But while all his people were sleeping,  
 An enemy scattered weed seeds over his wheat.  
 26So when the blades started sprouting with fruit,  
 The weeds also appeared.  
  
 27‘Then the master’s slaves came and asked him:  
  
 ‘Lord, weren’t those good seeds [that you gave us] to plant?  
 And if so, then, why are there so many weeds?’  
  
 28‘And he replied:  
  
 ‘It was an enemy of mine that did this.’  
  
 ‘So they asked him:  
  
 ‘Then, should we go and pull up [the weeds]?’  
  
 29‘And he told them:  
  
 ‘No, for as you’re pulling up weeds,  
 You may also uproot the wheat!  
 30Let them grow together ‘til the harvest arrives.  
 Then I’ll tell the reapers to collect the weeds first,  
 And put them in bundles and burn them;  
 Then, gather the wheat into my barn.’  
  
  
31Thereafter, he told them another parable, saying:  
  
 ‘The Kingdom of the heavens is like mustard seeds  
 That a man had planted in his field.  
 32Even though it’s [one of] the smallest of seeds;  
 It can grow to become the largest of plants…  
 [It can grow as large as] a tree  
 In whose branches, the birds in the skies can then roost.’  
  
  
33And he told them another parable:  
  
 ‘The Kingdom of the heavens is like a bit of [yeast]  
 That a woman hid within in three scoops of flour…  
 So it soon became filled with [the yeast].’  
  
  
34Jesus said all these things to the crowds in parables. And it’s a fact that if he wasn’t using parables, he wasn’t talking to them. 35This was done so as to fulfill what was spoken through the Prophet, who said:  
  
 ‘With parables, I’ll open my mouth.  
 And I’ll talk about things that have been hidden  
 Since the founding of the world.’  
 [Psalm 78:2]  
  
  
36Then, after dismissing the crowds, he went back into the house. And there his disciples came to him and asked him to explain the parable of the weeds in the field. 37So [Jesus] told them this:  
  
 ‘The one who planted the good seeds is the Son of Man, 38and the field is this system of things.  
  
 ‘The good seeds are the sons of the Kingdom, the weeds are the sons of the wicked one, 39and the enemy who planted them is the Slanderer.  
  
 ‘The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are [God’s] messengers.  
  
 40‘So, just as the weeds are collected and burned in a fire; that’s what will happen at the end of the age. 41The Son of Man will send his messengers to collect all the snares and all the lawless people out of his Kingdom, 42and they’ll be thrown into a flaming furnace, where they’ll cry and grind [their] teeth.  
  
 43‘But after that, the righteous will shine as brightly as the sun in the Kingdom of their Father…  
  
 ‘Let those who have ears pay attention to this!  
  
 44‘For the Kingdom of the heavens is like a treasure that a man found and hid in a field. Then to [get that treasure], he went and sold everything that he had to buy that field.  
  
 45‘The Kingdom of the heavens is also like a traveling merchant who was searching for good pearls; 46And when he found one very valuable pearl, he went away and quickly sold everything that he had to buy it.  
  
 47‘Again, the Kingdom of the heavens [God] is like a net that’s dropped into the sea and collects all sorts [of sea creatures]. 48Then, when it’s full, they haul it onto the beach and sit down to collect the good things, which they throw into baskets, while they toss all the bad things away.  
  
 49‘Yes, that’s how it’ll be at the end of the age… [God’s] messengers will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous, 50and they’ll throw [the wicked] into a flaming furnace, where they’ll cry and grind their teeth.’  
  
51[Then Jesus asked them]:  
  
 ‘Do you understand all these things?’  
  
And they replied:  
  
 ‘We do.’  
  
52So Jesus said:  
  
 ‘Well, this is how all the disciples of the Kingdom of the Heavens will teach… They’ll be like a man –a master of his house– who brings both old and new things out of his stores.’  
  
  
  
53Well, after Jesus had finished explaining these parables, he left that area 54and traveled to the place where he was raised, and there he started teaching in their synagogue.  
  
This dumbfounded the people, for they asked:  
  
 ‘Where did this man get such wisdom and powers?’  
  
 55‘Isn’t he the carpenter’s son?’  
  
 ‘Isn’t his mother called Mary, and aren’t his brothers James, JoSeph, Simon, and Judas? 56And his sisters… Aren’t they all with us?’  
  
 ‘Where did he get all these things?’  
  
57So they were stumbled over him.  
  
But Jesus said:  
  
 ‘A Prophet is never treated with dishonor except in the place where he was raised and within his own home.’  
  
58Therefore, he didn’t do many powerful deeds there, because of their lack of faith.