

WEEK 30 - MATTHEW 13

1. (i) Explain these characters in the Parable of the Wheat and Tares

- a. The Sower (1mrk)
- b. The Field (1mrk)
- c. The good seed (1mrk)
- d. The tares (1mrk)
- e. The enemy (1mrk)
- f. The harvest (1mrk)
- g. The reapers (1mrk)

(ii) What will happen to the tares? (1.5mrks)

(iii) What will happen to the good seed? (1.5mrks)

(GOLDEN QUESTION, 90 Seconds) Answer

(i) The characters

- a. The Sower :- Son of Man (that is, Christ)
- b. The Field :- The World
- c. The good seed :- The children of the kingdom
- d. The tares :- The children of the wicked one (Devil)
- e. The enemy :- The Devil
- f. The harvest :- The End of the World
- g. The reapers :- The Angels

(ii) The tares shall be gathered and burned in the fire, by the angels

(iii) The good seed, which are the children of the Kingdom, will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.

2. Differentiate between “The Kingdom of Heaven” and “The Kingdom of God”

Answer

The two terms, “The Kingdom of Heaven” and “The Kingdom of God” mean the same thing.

When referring to God’s Kingdom, **Mark**, **Luke** and **John** used the phrase “The Kingdom of God”, but **Matthew**, when referring to God’s Kingdom, used both phrases “The Kingdom of Heaven” and “The Kingdom of God”, which means the same thing.

So, the phrase “The Kingdom of Heaven” is found only in the book of Matthew because Matthew was writing to a Jewish audience, and to avoid using the word “God” too frequently, he often substituted it with the word “Heaven”. Therefore, when we see the term “The Kingdom of Heaven” in the book of Matthew, it refers to “The Kingdom of God”.

3. What is the meaning of the term “The Kingdom of God”?

Answer

The Kingdom of God means the reign and rule of God over His creation, physically, politically and spiritually.

As creator, God is sovereign (king) over all beings, including those who do not acknowledge him. He is the King of kings, and the Lord of Lords, and his reign covers all nations and territories.

However, those who willingly submit to him, and accept him as their God and King are regarded as “children of His Kingdom”. Such people have a special relationship with God and enjoy many benefits, being a part of His Kingdom.

And John told us, that the way to become a part of God’s kingdom is to be born again, that is, to have faith in the Lord Jesus.

4. **Matthew 13:17** “For verily I say unto you, that many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them”

Answer

Many of the Old Testament prophets and righteous men, like Moses, David, Isaiah etc, desired to see the coming of the Messiah, but were not privileged to see it. They desired to hear the words of the Messiah, but were not privileged to hear them.

They prophesied about him, but were not privileged to see the fulfilment of those prophecies. However, the disciples of Jesus were privileged to see the fulfilments of the Old Testament prophecies, with their own eyes. They saw and heard Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah, who is the express image of the Father.

(And today, we also are blessed to be able to read the testimonies of those who were eyewitnesses of Jesus when he came. Yes, we didn’t see Jesus in person, but all he did and taught were documented for us. Not only that, all that was later revealed to the apostles after

Jesus' resurrection, by the Holy Ghost, were recorded for us too. Indeed, we are blessed to have those records)

5. There are many who are regarded as Christians on earth, because they go to church, and yet will end up in hell, and not in the Kingdom of Heaven. Use a parable of Jesus to illustrate this.

Answer

Jesus warned that not everyone who looks like a Christian or goes to church will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. One parable that clearly shows this is the Parable of the Net in Matthew 13:47–50.

Matthew 13:47–48 “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a fishing net that was thrown into the water and caught fish of every kind. When the net was full, the fishermen pulled it up onto the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away.”

The net represents the Church or the message of the Kingdom. It brings many people together some who genuinely believe, and some who only look like believers on the outside.

The good fish are the true Christians, who follow Jesus with sincere hearts.

The bad fish are those who may have gone to church, sung songs, or even served, but their hearts were far from God.

Jesus said that at the end of the world, angels will separate the wicked from the righteous, just like the bad fish from the good.

Matthew 13:49–50 “This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the blazing furnace”

Not everyone in church is truly part of God's Kingdom. It's not enough to attend services or carry a Bible. What matters is genuine faith, obedience to God, and a heart that is truly surrendered to Jesus.

Matthew 7:21–23 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven, Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”

6. Explain these terms :-

- i. Dough ii. Leaven iii. Bread
- iv. Unleavened Bread v. Leavened Bread

Answer

- i. Dough :- Dough is a raw, uncooked mixture of flour, water, and other ingredients (like yeast, salt, or water) that is kneaded and shaped before baking.
- ii. Leaven (or Leavening agent) :- A leaven or leavening agent is a general term used for any substance that is used to cause dough to rise. E.g. Yeast, Baking Powder etc
- iii. Bread :- This is a finished product made by baking dough. It is a cooked form of dough.
- iv. Unleavened Bread :- This is a bread that has no leaven (or leavening agent) in it. That is, it has no yeast, therefore it is flat in nature.
- v. Leavened Bread :- This is a bread that has leaven (e.g. yeast) in it. It is soft and big in size.

(The kind of bread we eat today is Leavened bread. And to make a Leavened Bread, we just need to add **a little leaven** (rising agent like yeast) to the dough. The yeast will permeate every part of the dough, and make the dough to rise.

Understanding those terms will help in understanding the Parable of the Leaven)

(90 Seconds)

7. Use a parable of Jesus to explain how the kingdom of God is worth more than anything

Answer

Parable: **The Hidden Treasure**

Matthew 13:44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field.

When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field."

Jesus is telling us that knowing God and being part of His Kingdom is more valuable than anything else in life.

Just like the man in the story, He found a great treasure hidden in a field, He was so happy that he sold everything he owned just to buy the field and get the treasure.

He did not complain because he knew what he was getting was worth much more than what he gave up.

The Kingdom of God is like that treasure.

It is more important than money, fame, clothes, or even friends.

When we truly understand how precious it is to follow Jesus and go to Heaven, we will be willing to give up anything that may hold us back, sin, pride, or worldly things.

8. After Jesus' resurrection and ascension, the Church of Christ started small, just about 120 people in Acts 2. But thereafter, those few became mighty in number, and today, the disciples of Jesus are without number all over the world. Recite a parable of Jesus that foretold this?

Answer

Parable: The Mustard Seed

Matthew 13:31–32: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.'

Jesus said the Kingdom of God would start very small, like a tiny seed.

But over time, that small seed would grow big like a strong tree.

That big tree would be a place of shelter and rest for many, just like birds finding safety in its branches.

How this happened in Acts 2 and Today:

After Jesus rose and went to Heaven, only about 120 believers remained (Acts 1:15).

But on the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came, and 3,000 people believed (Acts 2:41).

The number kept growing, spreading across nations and generations.

Today, millions follow Jesus all over the world, just as He said!

God's Kingdom may look small now, but it is powerful, unstoppable, and eternal.

9. In the Parable of the Householder, Jesus said "Every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is a householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old". What does it mean?

Answer

(This parable is best understood by reading it in MESSAGE Bible translation)

According to Message Bible, It means, every student or believer that is well-trained in God's kingdom is like the owner of a general store who can put his hands on anything that is needed, old or new, exactly when it is needed.

In other words, all the teachings and instructions we receive about the Kingdom of God, will form a treasure in our heart, out of which we can easily reach out to those truths when we need to apply them, either personally, or when teaching others.

10. Every great man of God comes from a family and grows up in a locality. They grow until a time comes when the grace, calling and anointing of God begins to show in their lives. Learning from what happened to Jesus when he came back to his own country in Matthew 13:54-58, how should we relate with men who we are familiar with, as friends or family members, but who God has placed his hands upon?

Answer

When God places his hands upon men who we are familiar with, we must not allow the familiarity to prevent us from partaking in the grace of God upon their lives. Even if we know how they were born, and how they grew, we must honour them. God is pleased when we honour men whom he has honoured.

In many cases, just as Jesus said, people who are familiar with a prophet do not honour the prophet. And that familiarity will make the anointing over the prophet not to work for them, while the same anointing is working for others. We must know that when God raises a man among us, he has raised the man **for our benefit**. We must therefore honour the grace of God upon the man, to be able to receive of what he carries.