

“SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD [Part 3]!”

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INTRO: Jesus taught us to pray for God’s kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven (Matt. 6:9-10). He went on in vv. 25-33 to tell us that we shouldn’t worry about our provision, but instead trust God, and ended with telling us to *“seek first the kingdom of God ...”* (v. 33)

We’ve looked at what the kingdom of God is not, and what the kingdom of God is. It is the gospel of the New Testament/Covenant (Lk. 16:16) and is ever progressing (Isa. 9:7; Acts; Col. 1:5-6; Rev. 7:9).

The Parable of the Sower & Seed (Matt. 13:1-9, 18-23).

A. The Purpose of Parables (Matt. 13:10-17; Isa. 6:9-10).

1. Parables are stories of things people are familiar with to teach spiritual truths people aren’t familiar with.
2. Parables reveal kingdom mysteries to those with open hearts, while concealing kingdom mysteries to those with closed hearts (see vv. 12-15).
3. *“Both kingdom knowledge and a lack of kingdom knowledge reproduce after their own kind!”*
4. The root of spiritual ignorance isn’t a lack of intelligence or education, but a dull heart.

THE FOUR HEART SOIL TYPES (Matt. 13:3-4, 18-19):

1. The Hard Heart (Matt. 13:3-4, 18-19).

- A. Soil that was unplowed – hard paths.
- B. Only a few seeds ended up here inadvertently!
- C. Satan steals the word sown in the heart when people don’t understand it.

2. The Superficial Heart (Matt. 13:5-6, 20-21).

- A. Soil with rocks under the surface results in the seed being scorched by the sun.
- B. Only a few seeds ended up here inadvertently!
- C. This person falls away when tribulation or persecution comes because of shallow roots.

3. The Distracted Heart (Matt. 13:7, 22).

- A. Thorny soil.
- B. Only a few seeds ended up here inadvertently!
- C. This person falls away because natural things choke out spiritual things.

4. The Prepared & Fruitful Heart (Matt. 13:8-9, 23)

- A. Prepared and fruitful soil.
- B. This is where the majority of seed is planted!
- C. Wouldn’t the 30, 60 & 100-fold harvest of the bulk of the seed intentionally planted in good soil far exceed the “few” unproductive seeds inadvertently sown on poor soil?

KINGDOM PARABLES (Matt. 13:24-52)

The Parable of the Wheat & Tares (Mt. 13:24-30, 36-43).

- A. An enemy sows tares in a wheat field.
- B. The wheat had a head start over the tares – sprouted and produced a crop *before* the tares appeared!
- C. Wheat & tares will co-exist until the harvest.
 1. The tares are gathered *before* the wheat (vv. 29-30)!
- D. The harvest of the wheat & tares represents the harvest at the end of the age (vv. 40-41).

CONCLUSION: *Do you have ears to hear? What kind of heart soil do you have?*