

“SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD [Part 4]!”

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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 we shouldn’t worry about our provision but instead trust God and seek first the kingdom of God (v. 33). Last week we looked at The Parable of the Sower & Seed. Let’s look at additional Kingdom Parables from Matthew 13.

1. The Parable of the Wheat & Tares (vv. 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).

2. The Parable of the Mustard Seed (Matt. 13:31-32).

- A. The mustard seed starts small but ends big.
- B. The kingdom of God often works under the radar but will end up dominant (Dan. 2:44; 7:14, 27; 1Cor. 15:24; Rev. 11:15)!

3. The Parable of the Leaven (Matt. 13:33).

- A.** Again we see God’s kingdom often works under the radar, but eventually manifests in its fulness—**“till it was all leavened.”**

4. The Parable of the Hidden Treasure (Matt. 13:44).

- A. The kingdom of heaven is a valuable treasure and is worth doing whatever it takes to obtain.
- B. The kingdom of heaven is often hidden and must be pursued (Matt. 6:33; 11:12; Lk. 16:16).

•What will you give to pursue & obtain the kingdom?

5. The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price (Mt. 13:45-46).

- A. Same as 4A above from the previous page.
- B. Have you discovered the treasure of the kingdom – the pearl of great price?

6. The Parable of the Dragnet (Matt. 13:47-50).

- A. A dragnet full of fish, and the bad are separated from the good.
- B. At the end of the age the wicked will be separated from among the just and cast into the furnace of fire.

7. The Parable of the Householder (Matt. 13:52).

- A. Teachers who have a reasonable grasp of the kingdom of heaven are able to teach things new and old, deeper truths that aren’t well understood, as well as foundational truths that are simpler to grasp.
- B. Be leery of a teacher who always has to have something new and exciting, but ignores some of the foundational truths that need to be reviewed periodically.

CONCLUSION: Let’s seek first the kingdom of God (Matt. 6:33)! Let’s believe for a great harvest of souls!