

the parable of the sower.

MATTHEW 13:1-23

• parable •

story using everyday situations to explain heavenly truth which can be applied to everyday life

to the point.

I. Jesus used parables to explain what life would be like _____ His kingdom is inaugurated.

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables ... vv. 1-3a

- A. Jesus offered His kingship to Israel but was rejected by the nation.
- B. Jesus began a new kingdom agenda which offered citizenship to those outside the nation of Israel.
- C. Jesus used parables to conceal the truths of His kingdom to those who rejected Him, and also to offer them to those who would receive.

II. Jesus taught that His kingdom agenda would be _____ presented but not equally received.

"... A sower went out to sow." v. 3b

III. Jesus' coming kingdom is _____ when He is received and obeyed as King.

"As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty." v. 23

A **HARD HEART** does not want to receive God's Word or Jesus as King.

A **SHALLOW HEART** wants the easiest way that will not be criticized by the world.

A **DISTRACTED HEART** gets sidetracked chasing counterfeit blessings.

A **RECEPTIVE HEART** accepts, retains and applies God's Word.

sower : Jesus

seed : Word of God

soil : people's hearts

bird : Satan

sun : trials and persecution

thorns : cares of this world

to the point.

- Prepare your heart to receive His Word _____ .
- Allow the Word to take root in _____ before you apply it to anyone else.
- Obey His Word as you walk with Him, to bear His _____ .

to the point.

DEVOTIONAL & HOME GROUP STUDY

1. Read Matthew 13:1-23. What stands out to you in this passage? What is confusing or puzzling to you, and why?

2. One of the reasons Jesus taught in parables was to safeguard the secrets of God (v. 11). Why did He need to do this? (See also 1 Cor 2:6-13.)

3. J. Alexander Findlay has said, "It is not easy to be a Christian; but it is easy to start." How does his statement relate to this parable?

4. The seed is the gospel of the kingdom, and the soil is the human heart (v. 19). How does the condition of the heart determine its receptivity to the gospel?

5. Of the four types of hearts listed under point III on the sermon notes, which do you most relate to these days? In what areas of your life do you refuse to accept the rule of Jesus as your King?

6. How has the sermon encouraged you to prepare your heart for the Word of God and to accept Jesus' rule?

"The opposition of the unregenerate heart to God's sovereignty is particularly evident in these kingdom parables, for kingdom means rule, and rule is the same as sovereignty. When Jesus came preaching the kingdom of God, He came preaching God's right to rule over the minds and hearts of all people. But that is precisely what the people involved did not want. Adam did not want it. He had great freedom, but he was offended by God's unreasonable and arbitrary (so he judged) restriction in the case of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If God exercised His sovereignty at that point, it was here that Adam would rebel. So he did—and fell, carrying the race with him. That spirit of rebellion against the sovereign God works itself out in history until eventually the Lord Jesus Christ Himself comes to earth and the response of His people is: 'We will not have this man to rule over us.' So it is also today. That is probably the greatest reason for the rejection of the gospel of God's grace in Jesus Christ at this or any other time in history. I heard of a man who said, 'I believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that He died for sinners. But I guess I just don't want to give Him my life. I want to make my own decisions.'"

James Montgomery Boice

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you'd like to find out even more, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events. That's a great spot to see what's coming up!

TEXT "CCBCSHARE" TO 94090 FOR YOUR NEXT STEP. If you're connected, serving and growing, your next step is to start thinking about discipleship. Text "CCBCShare" to 94090 and we'll send you a few ideas for getting started.

RENOVATE MEETS THIS WEDNESDAY, MAY 19. Hey young adults, Renovate is a community where you can find a home, make friends, and ask the hard questions about life and faith. If you've never been before, experience it for yourself this Wednesday. Dinner's at 6 p.m. and then worship starts at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Not able to join in person? You can also watch the livestream on YouTube. Learn more at www.renovateftw.org.

GUYS, JUMP INTO JONAH WITH BAND OF BROTHERS THIS THURSDAY. Meeting on Thursdays at 6:30 a.m. and 7 p.m., Band of Brothers is a place to build your faith in the company of other men. This May they're looking at the story of Jonah and how it's a lesson on God's mercy and grace for all—no matter who you are, where you've been or what you've done. Study the story with our community of guys and see God's grace in a new way—just sign up at www.ccbcfamily.org/events.

LADIES, ADD COMMUNITY AND WOMEN IN THE WORD TO YOUR SUMMER PLANS. On Thursday nights, starting May 27, the women of Christ Chapel are gathering at Women in the Word to talk about God's amazing grace. Together with friends you'll hear stories from the book of Judges about everyday people God raised up as leaders and instruments of His power, faithfulness and mercy. We think you'll leave encouraged by God's faithfulness to you. Learn more and sign up at www.ccbcfamily.org/events.

SIGN UP FOR A SUMMER SOUL CARE GROUP. If you're looking for a safe place to drop your guard and honestly work through a specific issue, a Soul Care group may be for you. Three groups for women begin Thursday, June 3: "When I Am Afraid" for fear and anxiety, "Get Out of Your Head" for taking control of your thought life and "Forgiving What You Can't Forget" for learning how a biblical perspective of forgiveness can bring peace to your life. All groups are centered on the hope and redemption of the gospel. To learn more, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/soulcare.

PARTNER WITH CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ON SUNDAYS. It's not too late to join the team! Will you help us open more classrooms by serving in Children's Ministry? Email us at children@christchapelbc.org to get started.

NEW TO CHRIST CHAPEL OR READY TO START CONNECTING? Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week with next steps and more information.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE. The process is quick and easy—just text "CCBCFW" to 77977 to get started.

