

“THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE...”

(Kingdom Parables, Part 2)

Matthew 13:24-53

Key Verse: 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.”

1. Though a man sowed good seed, what happened to his field (24-28a)? Why didn't they pull up the weeds (28-30)? What does this suggest about the kingdom of heaven, the enemy's work, and the nature of the King?
2. How is the kingdom of heaven like a mustard seed (31-32)? How is it like yeast (33)? What can we learn here? Why did Jesus teach the crowd using parables (34-35)? How were the disciples different (36; 11-12)?
3. How did Jesus explain the parable of the weeds (37-39)? At the end of the age, how does the Son of Man deal with evildoers and the righteous (40-43)? What hope does this give to those who have ears to hear?
4. Read verses 44-46. How do these two parables show the supreme value of the kingdom of heaven? What is the common factor and what is different in the two parables? How should we respond to the message of the kingdom?
5. How does the parable of the net echo the parable of the weeds (47-50)? What did Jesus ask his disciples (51)? What do you think verse 52 means? How are the parables in this passage related? What new treasure have you found?