

A Hidden Treasure

Matthew 13:24-52

Key Verse: 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.”

* In verses 24-52 there are 6 parables about the kingdom of heaven which reveal the nature of the Messiah's kingship. Jesus taught these primarily to his disciples.

1. Read verses 24-30. Though a man sowed good seed, what happened to his field? Why didn't he let his servants pull up the weeds? What does this suggest to us about the kingdom of heaven, and the nature of the King? (29-30; Mt 3:11,12)

2. Read verses 31-33. How is the kingdom of heaven like a mustard seed? How is it like yeast? What is similar in these two parables? What is different? What can we learn here about the way the kingdom of heaven grows and spreads?

3. Read verses 34-36. To whom were these parables spoken? Why did Jesus teach in parables? (Ps 78:2; Mk 4:33) Who can understand the parables? (36)

4. Read verses 37-43. How did Jesus explain the parable of the weeds? In the final judgment, how does the Son of Man deal with the wicked and the righteous? What are the consequences for the wicked and the righteous? What does this parable teach us about the kingdom of heaven? About the world?

5. Read verse 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?

6. Read verses 47-50. What does the parable of the net teach about the kingdom of heaven? In what respect is it similar to the parable of the weeds? (13:30,42)

7. Read verses 51-52. Did the disciples understand? Why is it good to know the Bible, even though we may not immediately understand everything? Why is it good to study the Old Testament? What do these parables teach us about the kingdom of heaven, about Jesus' Kingship?