

Note:

This chapter includes seven parables.

A parable is a story that illustrates one main point. In studying parables, look for the one main point.

Read: Matt. 13: 1-50

Why Jesus spoke in parables: Matt. 13: 10-17

1. In verses 11-13 it sounds like Jesus was revealing His truth to only a privileged few. But in verse 15 Jesus states the reason why only a few would understand. What reason does He give?

The Parable of the Sower: Matt. 13: 1-9, 18-23

2. Jesus told us what He meant by the parts of this parable. But the main point of this parable is found in verse 23. What does a person have to do in order to produce a good crop?

3. What are three things Jesus said could keep us from “producing a good crop?”

The Parable of the Weeds: Matt. 13: 24-30, 36-43

4. Jesus tells us what He means by the different parts of this story.

- a. Who is the farmer?
- b. What is the field?
- c. Who are the good seed?
- d. Who are the weeds?
- e. Who is the enemy?
- f. When is the harvest?

5. The main point of this parable relates to when we will know for sure who are believers and who are not. When does Jesus say this will happen?

The Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast: Matt. 13: 31-33

6. Jesus said the kingdom of heaven is like the mustard seed. When the kingdom is planted in this world, what should we expect of its growth?

7. If the kingdom of heaven is like a bit of yeast in a large amount of flour, what should happen if only a few believers are among a large group of unbelievers?

The Parable of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl: Matt. 13: 44-46

8. These parables have the same main point. When the treasure and the pearl were found, how important did the finders consider them?

The Parable of the Net: Matt. 13: 47-50

9. Fishermen with a large catch of fish do not keep all the fish to sell. Some are good, some are useless. At the end of the age, will everyone be considered good?

Today's Thought

I want to have ears that hear, eyes that see, and a heart that responds to God's Word.

Read: Luke 8: 22-56

Jesus calms the storm: Luke 8: 22-25

1. Among the disciples were four professional fishermen who had worked on this lake. The disciples considered this storm so serious that they woke Jesus saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" What does Jesus do about it?

2. Why did this miracle awe the disciples?

Healing the demon-possessed man: Luke 8: 26-39

3. How severe was this man's demon possession?

4. Why did the people of the town ask Jesus to leave?

5. Why wouldn't Jesus allow the man to travel with Him?

The woman with bleeding: Luke 8: 42b-48

6. Why was this woman so anxious to touch Jesus' cloak?

7. Why did Jesus stop to find out who had touched Him?

Raising Jairus' daughter: Luke 8: 40-42a, 49-56

8. How serious was Jairus' daughter's illness?

9. What did Jesus tell Jairus when he had been informed that his daughter was dead?

10. How long did it take for her to get well?

(See additional study,
topic #21)

Today's Thought

When I am faced with impossible problems, do I seek Jesus first?

***Knowing
Jesus***

Read: John 6: 1-15; Matt. 14: 21-36

Jesus feeds 5,000: John 6: 1-15; Matt. 14: 21

1. Why were so many people following Jesus?

2. Why did Jesus ask Philip where they could buy bread to feed all who came out to the mountainside?

3. What did Andrew offer to Jesus?

4. Jesus took the bread and fish, gave thanks, and broke them into pieces to be distributed to the people. How much food did each of the 5,000+ (See Matt. 14:21) people get?

5. How much food was left over?

6. What did the people intend to do to Jesus?

Jesus and Peter walk on the water: Matt. 14: 22-36

7. What did Jesus do on the mountain by Himself?

8. The disciples were terrified when they saw Jesus walking on the water. What did Jesus do that gave Peter the courage to step out of the boat?

9. What caused Peter to sink?

10. What happened as soon as they landed at Gennesaret?

(See additional study,
topic #22)

Today's Thought

Truly You are the Son of
God!

**Knowing
Jesus**

Read: John 6: 25-68

Jesus, the Bread of Life: John 6: 25-35

1. Jesus' followers asked what they must do in order to do the works God requires. What did Jesus say God requires?
2. What did Jesus say is the true bread from heaven?
3. Who did Jesus say is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world?

The purpose of Jesus' coming: John 6: 36-50

4. What did Jesus say was His reason for coming?
5. What is the Father's will for us?
6. Those who knew Jesus' family and background began to grumble that since they knew His family, He could not have come from heaven as He claimed. How did Jesus say a person comes to Him?
7. What did Jesus promise if you believe?

A hard saying of Jesus: John 6: 51-68

8. Verse 51 is very important. Not understanding this verse makes the next few verses sound cannibalistic. When Jesus says the bread is His flesh, He means it is His body. When He says He gives His body for the life of the world, what does He mean?
9. Jesus was aware that His talk of eating His flesh and drinking His blood offended many of His followers. Jesus said the flesh counts for nothing. What does the spirit do?
10. What was Peter's reaction when Jesus asked if they wanted to leave Him like some of His other followers?

Today's Thought

Even when I don't understand totally what Jesus meant by what He said, I want to believe Him. I'm willing to believe even if I don't fully understand.

Read: Mark 7: 1-37

Clean and Unclean: Mark 7: 1-23

1. Were the Pharisees more concerned with the importance of cleanliness or the tradition of washing hands?

2. How important did Jesus think their traditions were?

3. Did supporting your parents or giving a large gift to God please God more?

4. Does eating food without the ceremonial washing make a person “unclean”?

5. What kind of things coming out of a person makes him unclean?

The Syrophenician woman: Mark 7: 24-30

6. Jesus was passing through Tyre, a Gentile area, and stopped to rest. Jesus wanted no large crowds and ministry. Jesus’ response to this woman seems to be a rejection. How did she respond?

7. Matt. 15: 28, in telling this same story, adds: “Woman, you have great faith. Your request is granted.” What caused Jesus to heal this Gentile woman’s daughter?

Healing a deaf and dumb man: Mark 7: 31-37

8. Did Jesus do this miracle publicly?

9. Did Jesus want a lot of attention for this miracle?

(See additional study,
topic #23)

Today’s Thought

I want the things that
come out of my heart to
be pure. “Create in me a
pure heart, O God, and
renew a steadfast spirit
within me.”
Psa. 51: 10.

Day 1

1. Jesus said only a few would understand because the others had callused hearts and had closed their own eyes and ears. Otherwise they would have understood, repented, and been healed.
2. The person who will “produce” a good crop is the one who receives the good news of God’s Word and understands it.
3. Three things Jesus said could keep us from “producing a good crop” are: not understanding the word of the kingdom, not having deep roots in our lives, and being choked by the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches.
4.
 - a. The Son of Man
 - b. the world
 - c. believers in Jesus
 - d. non-believers
 - e. the devil
 - f. the end of the age
5. Jesus says the real separation of believers and non-believers will happen at the end of the age.
6. We should expect the kingdom of heaven to grow to be very big.
7. The believers should affect everyone.
8. Those who found the treasure and the pearl considered them so valuable they sold everything else to own them.
9. At the end of the age, the righteous and the wicked will be separated and face very different outcomes.

Day 2

1. Jesus got up, rebuked the wind and raging waters, and all was calm. He also asked where the disciples’ faith was.
2. The disciples were amazed that the winds and the sea obeyed Jesus.
3. This man was possessed by many demons. He had not worn clothes or lived in a house for a long time. He had to be chained hand and foot and kept under guard.
4. The people asked Jesus to leave their town because they were overcome with fear.
5. Jesus wanted the man to go home to show and tell what God had done for him.
6. This woman had been subject to bleeding for twelve years and no one could heal her.
7. Jesus wanted the woman to tell about her healing. He wanted to confirm her healing and to tell her that her faith had brought about her healing.
8. When Jairus first asked Jesus to come to his house it was because his daughter was dying. Before Jesus got there, his friends and neighbors were convinced she was dead.
9. Jesus told Jairus, “Don’t be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed.”
10. Immediately her spirit returned and she stood up.

Day 3

1. So many people were following Jesus because they saw Him healing the sick.
2. Jesus asked Philip where they could buy bread only to test him. He already knew what He was going to do.
3. Andrew offered a boy’s lunch of five small barley loaves and two small fish.
4. Everyone ate as much as they wanted.
5. They filled twelve baskets with the left-over pieces from the five barley loaves.
6. The people intended to forcefully make Jesus king.
7. Jesus prayed on the mountain when He was by Himself.
8. Jesus told them all to take courage and not be afraid. Peter asked that Jesus tell him to come out on the water to show it was He. Jesus said, “Come.”

9. When Peter took his eyes off Jesus and saw the wind, he became afraid and lost faith.
10. As soon as people in Gennesaret recognized Jesus they brought all their sick. All who even touched the edge of His cloak were healed.

Day 4

1. Jesus said the work God requires is to believe in the One God has sent, Jesus.
2. Jesus said the true bread from heaven is not manna, but the Person who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.
3. Jesus said, "I am the bread of life."
4. Jesus said He came from heaven not to do His own will, but to do the will of God.
5. The Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life and Jesus will raise him up at the last day.
6. Jesus said that it was necessary for the Father to draw people to Jesus. Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from Him will come to Jesus.
7. Jesus promised that whoever believes in Him has everlasting life.
8. Jesus does not mean His body is to be eaten as food to give life to the whole world. He means He gives His life in death for the whole world. This is figurative and must be understood as a picture of the coming crucifixion.
9. The spirit gives life. Jesus' words are spirit and life.
10. Peter called Jesus "Lord" and asked where else they would go. Jesus has the words of eternal life. Peter declared Jesus the Holy One of God.

Day 5

1. The Pharisees were concerned with the tradition of ceremonial hand washing.
2. Jesus quoted Isaiah that "their teachings are but rules taught by men." He said they were no longer holding onto God's commands, but were holding onto the traditions of men.
3. Giving a large gift to God would not please Him if it meant you were not supporting your parents. The commandment was to honor your parents. The tradition was to give large offerings to God.
4. No. Jesus said that nothing that goes into a man makes him "unclean."
5. Evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance, and folly make a person "unclean."
6. The woman was not put off by Jesus' comment. She was so sure He could heal her daughter that she challenged His apparent "rejection."
7. Her faith in Jesus caused Him to heal her, even though it was not His mission at that time to work among the Gentiles.
8. No. Jesus took the deaf and mute man away from the crowd to heal him.
9. Jesus commanded them to tell no one about the miracle. The more He told them this, the more they talked about it. They were overwhelmed with amazement.

Day 2

21. What the Bible says about demons:

Demons are powerful- Luke 8: 29
There are many demons and they are unclean- Mark 5: 8-9
Demons can possess human beings- Matt. 8: 28
Demons know their own destiny- Matt. 8: 29
Demons can cause violence- Acts 19: 13-16
Demons receive worship- I Cor. 10: 20
Demons deceive people- I Tim. 4: 1

Day 3

22. Jesus' times of prayer:

Very early in the morning- Mk. 1: 35
Often in the wilderness- Luke 5: 16
All night before choosing the twelve- Luke 6: 12
In the evening after a great miracle- Matt. 14: 23
Alone then joined by His disciples- Luke 9: 18
Appearance changed after prayer- Luke 9: 29
In deep grief before crucifixion- Luke 22: 41

Day 5

23. Gentiles:

Definition: "Anyone who is not a Jew."
Other terms used: heathen, pagan, and nations
Characterized by idolatry- Psa. 135: 15; Jer. 10: 1-5
God established Israel separate from other nations- Deut. 7: 1-6
Jews must not act like Gentiles- Lev. 18:3
Jews must not associate with Gentiles- Acts 10:28; 11: 2-3