



Jesus' Parables and the Kingdom of Heaven Matthew 13:1-52

- 1) Jesus' parables reveal the general character of our era
 - a) Soils (1-23): few receive the gospel; Satan influential among unbelievers
 - b) Wheat-tares (24-30, 36-43): two kinds of offspring; judgment looming
 - c) Mustard seed (31-32): steady growth of Christendom from small beginnings
 - i) Some sow seeds of truth
 - ii) Some water the seeds of truth
 - iii) God causes the growth (1 Cor. 3:6)
 - d) Leaven (33): though small, the Gospel will overwhelm the world
 - i) Just one insignificant person can have a huge influence
 - ii) In order to influence, we must "mix"
 - e) Hidden treasure/pearl of great price (44-46): Christ's kingdom is worth more than anything else the worldly kingdom can ever offer
 - i) Christ's kingdom must be individually received
 - ii) Christ's kingdom is invaluable
 - iii) What is valuable to the sons of the kingdom is rubbish to the sons of the evil one
 - iv) Christ's kingdom is the foundation of true joy
 - f) Dragnet (47-50): final judgment of unbelievers
 - i) Not all who profess Christ are of Christ
 - ii) God will separate His own from all the rest
- 2) Every Christian shares God's treasures, both old and new (51-52)
 - a) They are "made disciples of the kingdom" by God
 - b) They understand the NT in light of the OT
 - c) They then teach others, sharing God's treasures