

YOUR KINGDOM COME

THE KINGDOM spread....

Matthew 13:1-30, 36-43

The Parable of the Sower *That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. v2 Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. v3 Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. v4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. v5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. v6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. v7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. v8 Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop--a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. v9 He who has ears, let him hear." v10 The disciples came to him and asked, "Why do you speak to the people in parables?" v11 He replied, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. v12 Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. v13 This is why I speak to them in parables: "Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. v14 In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: 'You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. v15 For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.' v16 But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. v17 For I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it. v18 "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: v19 When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. v20 The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. v21 But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. v22 The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. v23 But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."*

The Parable of the Weeds *v24 Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. v25 But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. v26 When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. v27 "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' v28 " 'An enemy did this,' he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' v29 " 'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. v30 Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.' "*

..... **The Parable of the Weeds Explained** *v36 Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field." v37 He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. v38 The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, v39 and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. v40 "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. v41 The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. v42 They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. v43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.*

I. The KINGDOM OF God is spread RANDOMLY.

In the first parable the seed goes all over the place. v5-8

In the second, Jesus says the “field is the world” v38

Let us not be selective in where we spread the seed of the **KINGDOM OF God**

II. The KINGDOM OF the evil one is spread by ROBBERY and REPLICATION.

In the first parable the seed is stolen. v5-8, 19-22

In the second, the evil one does what Jesus did v25, 38

Satan has come to steal, kill and destroy John 10:10

III. The KINGDOM OF God is spread MYSTERIOUSLY.

v10 *The disciples came to him and asked, "Why do you speak to the people in parables?" v11 He replied, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them*

1. The Kingdom of God is a MYSTERY. The NIV translates v11 as “secret.” The Greek word is “musterion” or mystery. For a long time, right through the Old Testament, the full understanding of the Kingdom of God was kept hidden.
2. MYSTERY is solvable. The knowledge of the Kingdom of God is not beyond our level of comprehension. Even we can understand it. v26 *Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. v27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 1 Corinthians 1:26-27*
3. Like every good mystery we need a key to unlock the Mystery. And the “KEY” is Christ himself. *To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Col 1:27*

IV. The KINGDOM OF the evil one is spread DECEITFULLY.

v25 *But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away.*

SATAN WORKS IN THE DARK

John 3:19 *This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.*

Romans 13:12 *The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light. Ephesians 5:11* *Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. Ephesians 6:12* *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

V. The KINGDOM OF God is spread VICTORIOUSLY.

v12 *Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance.*

v16 *But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. v17 For I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it*

Verse 17 points to the fact that even some of those who wrote the prophecy of scripture did not know what they were writing about.

v43 *Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.*

VI. The KINGDOM OF the evil one is spread DESTRUCTIVELY.

v30 *Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned;*

v38 *.... The weeds are the sons of the evil one, v39 and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. v40 "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. v41 The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. v42 They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

The end is not a pretty sight for the unsaved.