

Be Reformed – Open the bible: study, dig and ask what the main point of the passage is

Be Charismatic – Expect the Holy Spirit: ask God to speak, minister, build up and lead us to maturity

Be Community – Love God's people: share vulnerably, apply, pray and build each other up

Be Missional – Win the world: apply lessons to outreach, make content accessible to non-Christians

Matthew 13:24-45

24 He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, 25 but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. 26 So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. 27 And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' 28 He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' 29 But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

31 He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. [32] It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

33 He told them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened."

34 All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable. 35 This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet:

"I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world."

CONTINUED IN
Matthew 13:24-45

Study Guide 26 June 2011 – Jesus' Parables: The Weeds and Mustard Seed



Summary

Jesus told these parables to reveal spiritual truth to those who are spiritually alive, and to conceal the truth from those who are spiritually dead.

Here, we learn that God is not the one responsible for evil – it is the devil. Nevertheless, God cares so much for His people that He is patient to wait for the right time to execute judgment so that no harm may come to those who are His.

Even though God is patient, this is no excuse for us to respond by thinking that God will not judge us, or that because the wicked prosper it is okay for us to do what they do. The kingdom of God seems small today, like a mustard seed, but it shall come in time.

As a pearl of great price, the kingdom of heaven is therefore worth our every investment. We joyfully sell all we have because we know that this is an opportunity we could never earn on our own.

Key points

Jesus spoke in parables to reveal spiritual knowledge to those who believe, and conceal it from those who do not believe.

Questions

>>Have you ever had a wrong done to you and desired justice?

>>Why doesn't God judge evil now and make the world perfect again?

>>How do we approach our own sin and the sin of others in view of God's patient judgment?

>>What have you invested yourself and your resources in?

>>Why does a Christian "sell everything" he has to obtain the kingdom?

>>Why does he do it joyfully?

>>What is the kingdom of heaven to you?

Final thoughts

Let us consider everything we own worth selling in exchange for the Kingdom of Heaven and the Lord who has brought His kingdom to earth.