

How (and What) the

Parables of Jesus

The Word
of the Kingdom

Help Us See

Lesson 2

“Hear then the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom...”
(Matt 13:18)

What Everyone in the Parable of the Sower Has in Common

Let’s take the time to read Jesus’ parable of the sower carefully in [Matthew 13:1-9](#) and his explanation of it in [13:18-23](#). Wherever the seed fell, notice what all have in common:

- Along the _____: “when anyone hears the word” ([13:19](#))
- On _____ ground: “this is the one who hears the word” ([13:20](#))
- Among _____: “this is the one who hears the word” ([13:22](#))
- On _____ soil: “this is the one who hears the word” ([13:23](#))

What is this word? Let’s allow Jesus to tell us in [13:19](#): “When anyone hears the word of the _____...” That’s significant, especially when we begin to realize how often and prominently “the kingdom” stands at the heart of Jesus’ teaching.

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “_____ for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ([Matt 4:12-17](#))

“Blessed are the poor in _____, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” ([Matt 5:3](#))

“But seek _____ the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” ([Matt 6:33](#))

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who _____ the will of my Father who is in heaven.” ([Matt 7:21](#))

With that in mind, let’s listen in on the follow-up parables to Jesus’ parable of the sower. As you read [Matthew 13:24-33](#) and [13:44-52](#), notice the “kingdom” language. We’ll talk later about some of these parables in detail. **For now, from a 30,000-foot view, what is Jesus communicating?** What does he want us to see about the kingdom of heaven?



For Next Week...

Mentally chew on this idea of “the kingdom of heaven.” Kingdoms are kind of foreign to us as modern Americans, but you’ve read enough books and watched enough TV to know the basics of a kingdom. What makes a kingdom? What do kingdoms have? On what are they built and what are they all about?

Finally, what we’ll see in our next lesson is how an announcement like, “[Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand](#)” would *comfort* some and *confront* others. This is absolutely key to seeing what Jesus wants us to see in the parables. **How about those things you listed above?** How could the nuts and bolts of an arriving kingdom simultaneously comfort some and confront others? Hold on to this sheet and we’ll reference what you wrote at the start of our next class.