



# THE PARABLES OF Jesus

## The Word of the Kingdom

## Lesson 2

“Hear then the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom...” (Matt 13:18-19)

### 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 Class & Family Discussion:

Jesus' parable of the sower began with, "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom..." (Matt 13:19). What do you think? What is "the word of the kingdom"?

Let's talk about 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?

So what does this look like in everyday life? As people hear "the word of the kingdom," some are like... in what ways?

- The path (Matt 13:4, 19) -
- Rocky ground (Matt 13:5-6, 20-21) -
- Thorns (Matt 13:7, 22) -
- Good soil (Matt 13:8, 23) -

What sort of "kingdom" language did you notice in the follow-up parables in Matthew 13:24-33 and 13:44-52? From a 30,000-foot view, what is Jesus communicating? What does he want us to see about the kingdom of heaven?

Over the next few weeks, we're going to explore 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. What do you think? How could the news of an arriving kingdom comfort some and confront others?