

# THE PARABLES OF Jesus

“Have You Understood All These Things?”

Lesson 13

Throughout this series exploring the parables as pictures of the kingdom that turns the world upside down, we’ve heard Jesus say over and over again, “the kingdom of heaven is like...” In fact, **Matthew 13** is a great place to draw our series to a close because Jesus not only says that phrase over and over throughout the chapter, he also asks an important question worth all of us thinking about: “Have you understood all these things?” (**Matt 13:51**). Why did Jesus ask that question? What did it have to do with...

- ✿ The parable of the sower (**13:1-9**)
- ✿ The parable of the weeds (**13:24-30**)
- ✿ The parable of the mustard seed (**13:31-32**)
- ✿ The parable of the leaven (**13:33**)



All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable. 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.”

- ✿ The parable of the treasure hidden in a field (**13:44**)
- ✿ The parable of the pearl of great value (**13:45-46**)
- ✿ The parable of the net (**13:47-50**)



“**Have you understood all these things?**” (**13:51**) *What things?*

These parables. Remember, in Greek—the language of the New Testament—*para* means “alongside” and *bole* means “to set.” Put those two together and you can see that a **parable** “sets” one thing “beside” something else. This is why Jesus said, “the kingdom of heaven is **like**...” More than that, this is why Jesus told his apostles to go with “the word of the kingdom” and “proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand’” (**10:7**). And how amazing that you and I have been able to see this quarter that the kingdom of heaven is **here**. Before he ascended to heaven, our King said:

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (**28:18-20**)



### **For Class & Family Discussion:**

In what way did Jesus' parable of the sower (Matt 13:1-9) form the perfect foundation for *all* of his parables?

What did Jesus mean by comparing the kingdom of heaven to a field full of good seed that gets weeds sown among the wheat (13:24-30)?

What did Jesus mean by comparing the kingdom of heaven to a grain of mustard seed (13:31-32)?

What did Jesus mean by comparing the kingdom of heaven to leaven that gets hidden in three measures of flour (13:33)?

What did Jesus mean by comparing the kingdom of heaven to treasure hidden in a field (13:44)?

What did Jesus mean by comparing the kingdom of heaven to a merchant who finds one pearl of great value (13:45-46)?

What did Jesus mean by comparing the kingdom of heaven to a net that gathered fish of every kind (13:47-50)?

Why is Jesus concerned with whether or not his disciples (then and now) have "understood all these things" (Matt 13:51)?