

INTRODUCTION

- * "Focusing on the Messiah in the book of Matthew." Matthew was a Jewish man writing to a Jewish audience and giving testimony regarding the life and ministry of the Messiah who had been foretold by many of the Jewish prophets.
- * Last week we transitioned into the instructional phase of the life and ministry of the Messiah. Jesus began His instruction by sharing several parables regarding the Kingdom of Heaven. In that message, we considered the concept and purpose of parables and then the Parable of the Sower.
- * Today, the goal is to consider the rest of these parables.

INSTRUCTION

I. THE S _____ OF THE KINGDOM

- A. **The Sower, the Seed and the Soil** (v. 1-23) ... *last Sunday*
- B. **The Wheat and the Tares** (v. 24-30, 36-43)
 1. THE FIELD
 2. THE WHEAT
 3. THE TARES
 4. THE REAPERS
 5. THE HARVEST

II. THE E _____ OF THE KINGDOM

- A. **The Mustard Seed** (v. 31-32)
- B. **The Leaven** (v. 33)
 1. THE MEANING OF THE LEAVEN
 2. THE EFFECT OF THE LEAVEN

III. THE V _____ OF THE KINGDOM

- A. **The Hidden Treasure** (v. 44)
 1. FEW THERE BE THAT FIND IT
 2. SELLS EVERYTHING THAT HE OWNS (cf. Matthew 19:21)
- B. **The Pearl of Great Price** (v. 45-46)

IV. THE C _____ OF THE KINGDOM ... The Dragnet (v. 47-52)

- A. **Gathered Some of Every Kind** (cf. Revelation 5:9)
- B. **When It Was Full** (cf. Romans 11:25; Luke 21:24)
- C. **Separating the Wicked from the Just** (cf. Matthew 25:31-46)

INTROSPECTION

- * HOW PRECIOUS IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD TO YOU? WOULD YOU SELL *EVERYTHING* TO HAVE IT?
- * HOW INVOLVED ARE YOU IN SERVING IN THE MASTER'S FIELD?
- * WHAT KIND OF SEED ARE YOU SOWING?
- * IS THERE A NEED TO "CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK" ... AND, THEREFORE, ACT?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

It may be helpful to re-read the passage before the discussion.

- * How do we apply the concept of the wheat & tares to the church today?
- * What role should we play, as a church, in the expansion of the kingdom?