PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM

Matthew 13:24–52

Key Verse: 13:43

1. Read the parable of the weeds (24–30). How was this a metaphor for the crowds listening to Jesus?
2. Read the parable of the mustard seed (31,32). How was Jesus’ ministry like a mustard seed, and what should we learn from this? Read the parable of the yeast (33). How did this also apply to Jesus’ ministry, and to us?
3. What did Matthew say about Jesus’ use of parables? (34,35) Review Jesus’ explanation of why he used parables to teach the crowds (10–15). What does the prophecy of Psalm 78:2 tell us about Jesus’ parables of the kingdom? (1Co2:7; Eph3:9; Col1:26)
4. Which parable did the disciples ask about, and why that one? (36) Read Jesus’ explanation (37–42). When will God deal with everything that causes sin and all who do evil? What direction does this give us? (see verses 28–30 again) Read verse 43. In this troubled world, how can we be confident of this hope?
5. Read Jesus’ next two parables (44–46). In both cases, what did the person do? What does it tell us about the kingdom? About how we should live in this world? Read the parable of the net (47–50). How is it like the parable of the weeds, and why do you think Jesus repeated it? What can we learn from his closing remarks? (51,52)