

MATTHEW 13:24-43

PRAY & REST: Consider the things and people who “rule” in your day-to-day life, whether or not they are of God. Ask Him to rule in your heart—to give you eyes to see His work around you and conviction to live as a citizen of His Kingdom.

READ: Through these parables once. This is a short section, so consider reading it two more times. Read it out loud and contemplate possible connections between each one—they are together for a reason—and differences.

Consider & Respond to these questions:

What does Jesus show about Himself through these parables?

How does He depict His Kingdom and the world we live in?

How can (and should) we participate in the Kingdom and in becoming more like Him?

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QUESTIONS FROM SUNDAY

Reflecting on this Sunday's teaching, respond to these questions:

How do you protect the word of God (the seed) as it is planted in your life, and ensure that it takes root and grows fruit?

Knowing that the fruit in our life can either be on the surface and shallow, or deep in our heart and lasting, which would you say characterizes the fruit in your life and why? Which "fruits" mentioned in Galatians 5:22-24 need to take deeper root in your life?

Have any of the counterfeit doctrines that were discussed on Sunday crept into your view of Jesus, the Church, and the Bible? Please explain.

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

The Kingdom Jesus established was unlike anything His contemporaries had ever seen before, and it is one-of-a-kind in our world today. It is not like our world's systems—like a mustard seed would never grow into a tree—it is not separate from the world—we have weeds amongst our wheat that won't be removed until the end. Our enemy is one who distorts and denies the truth of who Jesus is and what He has done, but in the end we have been promised victory over Him. At the harvest, the Lord gives us all the hope that we will be brought into His storehouse to finally have the kingdom fully united with the King. We therefore spend this life realizing that what we sow, that we will reap, now and in the life to come.

Enemy: Exodus 15:6; Deuteronomy 32:39-42; John 8:44-47; Acts 20:28-30; 2 Corinthians 4:2-4; Ephesians 6:10-13; 1 Timothy 6:3-5; James 4:4-8; 1 Peter 5:8-11

Leaven: Exodus 12:15-20; Deuteronomy 16:2-8; Matthew 16:6-12; 1 Corinthians 5:6-8; Galatians 5:5-10

Birds: Deuteronomy 14:11-20; Psalm 84:3-4, 104:16-17; Matthew 6:26; Luke 12:6-7; Revelation 18:2

Kingdom: Daniel 2:44; Matthew 25:31-40; Luke 9:60-62; John 3:3-8; 1 Corinthians 4:20; Philippians 2:5-11; 2 Thessalonians 1:4-5; James 2:5

As you read, some questions to think about and respond to are:

Do you see and experience the Kingdom of Heaven? How? When?

What opposition is there—subtle or obvious—when you engage in God's Kingdom? Do you actively “resist” and “stand firm” when this happens?

What can you learn from the imagery of leaven and birds in relation to Jesus' kingdom?

To MEMORIZE: MATTHEW 13:16-17
