

*3 slides from yesterday that I
didn't get to...*

- **Jesus asks: Do you understand this parable?** (If not) how will you understand all of them?
 - Lots more to come OR
 - This is the easiest one? OR
 - This one is the 'Foundation' parable for all others
- *** All parables aimed at 1 of 4 soils

How do other parables connect to Sower? Some for each type Soil!

- **Hard packed soil-** Defeat sin & death without Christ? Lk14:28-33

- **Rocky soil-** 2 Pet 2: 20 fell away Lk11: 24- 26 not converted Not fruitful by his power

- Thorny soil- Lk 18:9- 14 Which is 'justified', Pharisee or Tax man?
- Good soil- On to perfection Lk 10: 30- 37
 - We can all grow. God & Jesus still PRUNE us!
- The SOWER is the foundation for understanding all Parables

Look at each parable in Mt 13 group

- What is the Real Message of this group of Parables?
- Practice the kingdom values

Mt 13 “Group” of Parables:

- Of course, 1st comes ‘SOWER’, followed by:
- Wheat/ Tares 24- 30, 36- 43
 - Darnesles- like wheat, but bad
 - Get rid of the ‘bad’ ones NOW?
 - Do we know who is faithful?
 - We WILL harm the innocent !

Wheat/ Tares (continued)

- Jesus could act now, but doesn't
 - People Can Change!
 - Does their presence prevent our salvation?
-
- Parable of the Net v. 47- 50 You WILL be judged then, so repent now!
 - Weeping and gnashing of teeth

Nebuchadnezzar's Vision:

- Massive tree, beasts lodge in branches, Cut it Down!

Interpretation:

- It is YOU, Neb. Strong, dominating, So live like a beast!

Conversion:

- Suffer, then reason returned, honored God
- Latter Kingdom GREATER

Mustard seed- Birds nesting?

- **Dan 4: huge, visible, birds of air lodge in it**
- Speaking of Nebuchadnezzar's empire, built for his glory!
- Could WE be just as proud and just as spiritually fruitless as Nebuchadnezzar was at first?

- Leaven [& Growing Seed Mk 4: 26- 28]
- Dan 4: 27, 30- 32, 37 Building God's kingdom, one conversion at a time; invisible but complete.
- Which Kingdom is 1st for you?

Two more Parables in Mt 13:

Pearl v.45- 46 Sought the perfect one, worth everything!

- Nicodemus, Eunuch, Cornelius

Found Treasure v. 44 unexpected joy of discovery, worth everything!

- Samaritan woman, me

Let us welcome each other with joy,
sharing something of incredible value... no matter what our differences in the eyes of the world

What is combined message of Mt 13?

- God & Jesus spread Gospel & use people to ‘plant the seed’ in all soils
- Each person chooses to accept faith or not, They ALL can change
- We are all ONE in Christ Jesus!
- Transformed by God, not our effort
- We can’t judge others accurately
- Kingdom is coming & Jesus will judge. Need to change? Do it NOW!
- Strengthen the things that remain
- Our Job? Faithful, serve, preach, teach, pray

EMPHASIS:

Which Kingdom is 1st for us?

- Wise & foolish builders *Mt. 7: 21-27*
- Pharisee & Publican *Lk. 18: 9- 14*

Parables of Jesus in Relationships::

With God there is Restoration!

- If we offend others
- When there is separation
- When others offend us
- *“Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me”.*

- If you offend another:
 - Mt 5: 23- 24 offering your gift at the altar & remember brother has something against you,
...First be reconciled, then come offer your gift.
 - Context is Murder- vv. 21- 22
 - Vv. 25- 26 a little parable

When there is separation

- Lk 15 Lost sheep/ coin/ prodigal/ elder brother- Seek 'til you find! RESTORE!

- But look at the Lost sheep in Mt. 18: 12- 14 Why gone? v. 6, 10 offended

- Father restores relationship with **Prodigal** & tries with the Elder Brother

When others offend us

- Unmerciful servant Mt 18: 35
 - From the Heart!
 - “But you don’t understand, Lord”
 - 70 x 7 ?
 - Practice restoration here, now?

Lessons we learned?

- Mt 13 parables- go on to perfection!
- **Mt 5, Lk 15, Mt 18:**
 - We forgive, God forgives us
 - We seek forgiveness, they forgive us & God forgives them
- The Parables **challenge us to change!**...to not be satisfied with just the “appearance” of religion or of relationship

- Don't settle for an incomplete faith!
- Enacted Parable: A Parable that is not just listened to. It was also SEEN, as it was acted-out in front of them

Enacted Parables- OT background:

- Ez. 4: 1- 6 Lie on side 1+ year
- Hos 1: 2-4 take prostitute as wife, give children prophetic names

2 in 1:

Mk 11: 12- 21 Rededication!

- **Temple Rededication + Passover!**
 - Hezekiah- 2 Chr 29
 - Jesus' 1st & 2nd Cleanse- Den of thieves? No! House of prayer for all. Followed by Real Passover
- **Cursing Fig Tree: no fruit? No value!**

ANOTHER ENACTED PARABLE:

Foot washing Jn 13: 1- 5, 14- 15

- Do for others what I did for you
- This is what John recorded, instead of 'Bread & Wine' ...

Both = Sacrificial Love!

Jesus' life was an enacted Parable

- In presence of death, he brought life
- In presence of Gentiles & Sinners, he brought welcome & fellowship
- In presence of sickness & sin- healing
- In presence of storms- calm & peace
- To our defiled Temple- cleansing
- To Sabbath restrictions- Holiness

What are WE enacting in our lives?