



Sermon Discussion Questions: Matthew 13

Matthew 13:1-23

1. Share a personal story about gardening or farming. What were the circumstances? How did it impact you? What did you learn? Like a parable, can you make any spiritual connections in your story?
2. In chapter 13, Jesus teaches 7 parables related to the Kingdom of God. What are parables? Why does Jesus speak in parables (see v. 10-17)?
3. Talk about Jesus' first parable. What details stuck out to you? What did you learn?
4. Jesus speaks of 4 different soils. Which of these soils most characterizes your heart right now and why?
5. Jesus also speaks of a sower. What characteristics are displayed in his life? How might they point us to the character of God? How might we grow to be more like him in our own sowing?
6. We are called to receive and share the gospel. Spend some time praying for one another and for those you want to receive the gospel.

Matthew 13:24-43

1. What is a parable or illustration that has stuck with you through the years? Why was it meaningful or significant?
2. Jesus teaches a parable about weeds. What does it teach you about the kingdom, the king, and the king's subjects?
3. Jesus teaches 2 more kingdom parables about the mustard seed and leaven. What do we learn about the kingdom of heaven from these 2 parables?
4. Jesus concludes with the words, "He who has ears, let him hear." What is God saying to you right now? How might you remember and apply the lessons from these parables to your life? Spend some time in prayer for one another.

Matthew 13:44-52

1. Talk about a significant treasure and why it's valuable to you.
2. Jesus teaches 2 parables about the value of the kingdom. What do they communicate? How have you seen this illustrated in your life and in others?
3. How might you grow in treasuring God and His Kingdom more? What practical steps might you need to take (including "selling")?
4. Jesus compares the kingdom to a net. What do we learn about the kingdom from this parable? How have you seen this principle displayed?
5. Jesus concludes his teaching on the parables by encouraging his disciples to be properly trained for the kingdom of heaven. What does He mean? How might you grow in your training? Spend some time in prayer for one another.

Matthew 13:53-58

1. Share a time when you experienced rejection. What were the circumstances? How did that impact you?
2. This passage reveals that Jesus was rejected by people from His hometown, including His family (see Mark 3:20-21). What do you think that experience was like for Jesus? How did His rejection fulfill the Scriptures? (Can you think of a passage that prophesies this?)
3. How does Jesus respond to this rejection now and later? (Note: Remember that Jesus is on His way to the cross.) What can we learn from Jesus when we experience rejection?
4. Jesus is our great high priest and can sympathize with all our weakness, including rejection. How might He comfort and encourage you right now?
5. The Scriptures reveal that not only have we been rejected, but we all have rejected Jesus. Yet, Jesus prays on the cross, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." How can you confess your sin to Jesus and turn to Him right now?