

Lessons from Matthew

Parable of the sower

- (13:3) Then he used stories as illustrations to tell them many things. He said, "Listen! A farmer went to plant seed.
- (13:4) Some seeds were planted along the road, and birds came and devoured them.
- (13:5) Other seeds were planted on rocky ground, where there was little soil. The plants sprouted quickly because the soil wasn't deep.
- (13:6) But when the sun came up, they were scorched. They withered because their roots weren't deep enough.
- (13:7) Other seeds were planted among thornbushes, and the thornbushes grew up and choked them.
- (13:8) But other seeds were planted on good ground and produced grain. They produced one hundred, sixty, or thirty times as much as was planted.
- (13:18) "Listen to what the story about the farmer means.
- (13:19) Someone hears the word about the kingdom but doesn't understand it. The evil one comes at once and snatches away what was planted in him. This is what the seed planted along the road illustrates.
- (13:20) The seed planted on rocky ground is the person who hears the word and accepts it at once with joy.
- (13:21) Since he doesn't have any root, he lasts only a little while. When suffering or persecution comes along because of the word, he immediately falls from faith.
- (13:22) The seed planted among thornbushes is another person who hears the word. But the worries of life and the deceitful pleasures of riches choke the word so that it can't produce anything.
- (13:23) But the seed planted on good ground is the person who hears and understands the word. This type produces crops. They produce one hundred, sixty, or thirty times as much as was planted."

Kingdom of heaven - 1st example

- (13:24) Jesus used another illustration. He said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who planted good seed in his field.
- (13:25) But while people were asleep, his enemy planted weeds in the wheat field and went away.
- (13:26) When the wheat came up and formed kernels, weeds appeared.
- (13:27) "The owner's workers came to him and asked, 'Sir, didn't you plant good seed in your field? Where did the weeds come from?'
- (13:28) "He told them, 'An enemy did this.' "His workers asked him, 'Do you want us to pull out the weeds?'
- (13:29) "He replied, 'No. If you pull out the weeds, you may pull out the wheat with them.
- (13:30) Let both grow together until the harvest. When the grain is cut, I will tell the workers to gather the weeds first and tie them in bundles to be burned. But I'll have them bring the wheat into my barn.'"
- (13:36) When Jesus had sent the people away, he went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain what the illustration of the weeds in the field means."
- (13:37) He answered, "The one who plants the good seeds is the Son of Man.

- (13:38) The field is the world. The good seeds are those who belong to the kingdom. The weeds are those who belong to the evil one.
- (13:39) The enemy who planted them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the world. The workers are angels.
- (13:40) Just as weeds are gathered and burned, so it will be at the end of time.
- (13:41) The Son of Man will send his angels. They will gather everything in his kingdom that causes people to sin and everyone who does evil.
- (13:42) The angels will throw them into a blazing furnace. People will cry and be in extreme pain there.
- (13:43) Then the people who have God's approval will shine like the sun in their Father's kingdom. Let the person who has ears listen!

Kingdom of heaven - 2nd example

- (13:31) Jesus used another illustration. He said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone planted in a field.
- (13:32) It's one of the smallest seeds. However, when it has grown, it is taller than the garden plants. It becomes a tree that is large enough for birds to nest in its branches."

Kingdom of heaven - 3rd example

- (13:33) He used another illustration. "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman mixed into a large amount of flour until the yeast worked its way through all the dough."

Kingdom of heaven - 4th example

- (13:44) "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field. When a man discovered it, he buried it again. He was so delighted with it that he went away, sold everything he had, and bought that field.

Kingdom of heaven - 5th example

- (13:45) "Also, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant who was searching for fine pearls.
- (13:46) When he found a valuable pearl, he went away, sold everything he had, and bought it.

Kingdom of heaven - 6th example

- (13:47) "Also, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea. It gathered all kinds of fish.
- (13:48) When it was full, they pulled it to the shore. Then they sat down, gathered the good fish into containers, and threw the bad ones away.
- (13:49) The same thing will happen at the end of time. The angels will go out and separate the evil people from people who have God's approval.
- (13:50) Then the angels will throw the evil people into a blazing furnace. They will cry and be in extreme pain there.
- (13:51) "Have you understood all of this?" "Yes," they answered.
- (13:52) So Jesus said to them, "That is why every scribe who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a home owner. He brings new and old things out of his treasure chest."

Kingdom of heaven - 7th example

- (18:21) Then Peter came to Jesus and asked him, "Lord, how often do I have to forgive a believer who wrongs me? Seven times?"
- (18:22) Jesus answered him, "I tell you, not just seven times, but seventy times seven.
- (18:23) "That is why the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.
- (18:24) When he began to do this, a servant who owed him millions of dollars was brought to him.
- (18:25) Because he could not pay off the debt, the master ordered him, his wife, his children, and all that he had to be sold to pay off the account.
- (18:26) Then the servant fell at his master's feet and said, 'Be patient with me, and I will repay everything!'
- (18:27) "The master felt sorry for his servant, freed him, and cancelled his debt.
- (18:28) But when that servant went away, he found a servant who owed him hundreds of dollars. He grabbed the servant he found and began to choke him. 'Pay what you owe!' he said.
- (18:29) "Then that other servant fell at his feet and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will repay you.'
- (18:30) But he refused. Instead, he turned away and had that servant put into prison until he would repay what he owed.
- (18:31) "The other servants who worked with him saw what had happened and felt very sad. They told their master the whole story.
- (18:32) "Then his master sent for him and said to him, 'You evil servant! I cancelled your entire debt, because you begged me.
- (18:33) Shouldn't you have treated the other servant as mercifully as I treated you?'
- (18:34) "His master was so angry that he handed him over to the torturers until he would repay everything that he owed.
- (18:35) That is what my Father in heaven will do to you if each of you does not sincerely forgive other believers."

Kingdom of heaven - 8th example

- (20:1) "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard.
- (20:2) After agreeing to pay the workers the usual day's wages, he sent them to work in his vineyard.
- (20:3) About 9 a.m. he saw others standing in the marketplace without work.
- (20:4) He said to them, 'Work in my vineyard, and I'll give you whatever is right.' So they went.
- (20:5) "He went out again about noon and 3 p.m. and did the same thing.
- (20:6) About 5 p.m. he went out and found some others standing around. He said to them, 'Why are you standing here all day long without work?'
- (20:7) "'No one has hired us,' they answered him. "He said to them, 'Work in my vineyard.'
- (20:8) "When evening came, the owner of the vineyard told the supervisor, 'Call the workers, and give them their wages. Start with the last, and end with the first.'
- (20:9) "Those who started working about 5 p.m. came, and each received a day's wages.
- (20:10) When those who had been hired first came, they expected to receive more. But each of them received a day's wages.

- (20:11) Although they took it, they began to protest to the owner.
- (20:12) They said, 'These last workers have worked only one hour. Yet, you've treated us all the same, even though we worked hard all day under a blazing sun.'
- (20:13) "The owner said to one of them, 'Friend, I'm not treating you unfairly. Didn't you agree with me on a day's wages?'
- (20:14) Take your money and go! I want to give this last worker as much as I gave you.
- (20:15) Can't I do what I want with my own money? Or do you resent my generosity towards others?'
- (20:16) "In this way the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Kingdom of heaven - 9th example

- (21:28) "What do you think about this? A man had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go to work in the vineyard today.'
- (21:29) "His son replied, 'I don't want to!' But later he changed his mind and went.
- (21:30) "The father went to the other son and told him the same thing. He replied, 'I will, sir,' but he didn't go.
- (21:31) "Which of the two sons did what the father wanted?" "The first," they answered. Jesus said to them, "I can guarantee this truth: Tax collectors and prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.
- (21:32) John came to you and showed you the way that God wants you to live, but you didn't believe him. The tax collectors and prostitutes believed him. But even after you had seen that, you didn't change your minds and believe him.

Kingdom of heaven - 10th example

- (21:33) "Listen to another illustration. A landowner planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, made a winepress, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to vineyard workers and went on a trip.
- (21:34) "When the grapes were getting ripe, he sent his servants to the workers to collect his share of the produce.
- (21:35) The workers took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned a third to death.
- (21:36) So the landowner sent more servants. But the workers treated them the same way.
- (21:37) "Finally, he sent his son to them. He thought, 'They will respect my son.'
- (21:38) "When the workers saw his son, they said to one another, 'This is the heir. Let's kill him and get his inheritance.'
- (21:39) So they grabbed him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.
- (21:40) "Now, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those workers?"
- (21:41) They answered, "He will destroy those evil people. Then he will lease the vineyard to other workers who will give him his share of the produce when it is ready."
- (21:42) Jesus asked them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. The Lord is responsible for this, and it is amazing for us to see'?"
- (21:43) That is why I can guarantee that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce what God wants.
- (21:44) Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken. If the stone falls on anyone, it will crush that person."

Kingdom of heaven - 11th example

- (22:2) "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who planned a wedding for his son.
- (22:3) He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the wedding, but they refused to come.
- (22:4) He sent other servants to tell the people who had been invited, 'I've prepared dinner. My bulls and fattened calves have been butchered. Everything is ready. Come to the wedding!'
- (22:5) "But they paid no attention and went away. Some went to work in their own fields, and others went to their businesses.
- (22:6) The rest grabbed the king's servants, mistreated them, and then killed them.
- (22:7) "The king became angry. He sent his soldiers, killed those murderers, and burned their city.
- (22:8) "Then the king said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited don't deserve the honour.
- (22:9) Go where the roads leave the city. Invite everyone you find to the wedding.'
- (22:10) The servants went into the streets and brought in all the good people and all the evil people they found. And the wedding hall was filled with guests.
- (22:11) "When the king came to see the guests, he saw a person who was not dressed in the wedding clothes provided for the guests.
- (22:12) He said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without proper wedding clothes?' "The man had nothing to say.
- (22:13) Then the king told his servants, 'Tie his hands and feet, and throw him outside into the darkness. People will cry and be in extreme pain there.'
- (22:14) "Therefore, many are invited, but few of those are chosen to stay."

Kingdom of heaven - 12th example

- (25:1) "When the end comes, the kingdom of heaven will be like ten bridesmaids. They took their oil lamps and went to meet the groom.
- (25:2) Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.
- (25:3) The foolish bridesmaids took their lamps, but they didn't take any extra oil.
- (25:4) The wise bridesmaids, however, took along extra oil for their lamps.
- (25:5) Since the groom was late, all the bridesmaids became drowsy and fell asleep.
- (25:6) "At midnight someone shouted, 'The groom is here! Come to meet him!'
- (25:7) Then all the bridesmaids woke up and got their lamps ready.
- (25:8) "The foolish ones said to the wise ones, 'Give us some of your oil. Our lamps are going out.'
- (25:9) "But the wise bridesmaids replied, 'We can't do that. There won't be enough for both of us. Go! Find someone to sell you some oil.'
- (25:10) "While they were buying oil, the groom arrived. The bridesmaids who were ready went with him into the wedding hall, and the door was shut.
- (25:11) "Later the other bridesmaids arrived and said, 'Sir, sir, open the door for us!'
- (25:12) "But he answered them, 'I don't even know who you are!'
- (25:13) "So stay awake, because you don't know the day or the hour.

Kingdom of heaven - 13th example

- (25:14) "The kingdom of heaven is like a man going on a trip. He called his servants and entrusted some money to them.
- (25:15) He gave one man ten thousand dollars, another four thousand dollars, and another two thousand dollars. Each was given money based on his ability. Then the man went on his trip.

- (25:16) "The one who received ten thousand dollars invested the money at once and doubled his money.
- (25:17) The one who had four thousand dollars did the same and also doubled his money.
- (25:18) But the one who received two thousand dollars went off, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master's money.
- (25:19) "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them.
- (25:20) The one who received ten thousand dollars brought the additional ten thousand. He said, 'Sir, you gave me ten thousand dollars. I've doubled the amount.'
- (25:21) "His master replied, 'Good job! You're a good and faithful servant! You proved that you could be trusted with a small amount. I will put you in charge of a large amount. Come and share your master's happiness.'
- (25:22) "The one who received four thousand dollars came and said, 'Sir, you gave me four thousand dollars. I've doubled the amount.'
- (25:23) "His master replied, 'Good job! You're a good and faithful servant! You proved that you could be trusted with a small amount. I will put you in charge of a large amount. Come and share your master's happiness.'
- (25:24) "Then the one who received two thousand dollars came and said, 'Sir, I knew that you are a hard person to please. You harvest where you haven't planted and gather where you haven't scattered any seeds.
- (25:25) I was afraid. So I hid your two thousand dollars in the ground. Here's your money!'
- (25:26) "His master responded, 'You evil and lazy servant! If you knew that I harvest where I haven't planted and gather where I haven't scattered,
- (25:27) then you should have invested my money with the bankers. When I returned, I would have received my money back with interest.
- (25:28) Take the two thousand dollars away from him! Give it to the one who has the ten thousand!
- (25:29) To all who have, more will be given, and they will have more than enough. But everything will be taken away from those who don't have much.
- (25:30) Throw this useless servant outside into the darkness. People will cry and be in extreme pain there.'

We are valuable

- (10:28) Don't be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Instead, fear the one who can destroy both body and soul in hell.
- (10:29) "Aren't two sparrows sold for a penny? Not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father's permission.
- (10:30) Every hair on your head has been counted.
- (10:31) Don't be afraid! You are worth more than many sparrows.
- (10:32) "So I will acknowledge in front of my Father in heaven that person who acknowledges me in front of others.
- (10:33) But I will tell my Father in heaven that I don't know the person who tells others that he doesn't know me.
- (11:28) "Come to me, all who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest.
- (11:29) Place my yoke over your shoulders, and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble. Then you will find rest for yourselves
- (11:30) because my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

- (18:11) For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.
- (18:12) "What do you think? Suppose a man has 100 sheep and one of them strays. Won't he leave the 99 sheep in the hills to look for the one that has strayed?"
- (18:13) I can guarantee this truth: If he finds it, he is happier about it than about the 99 that have not strayed.
- (18:14) In the same way, your Father in heaven does not want one of these little ones to be lost.

What must we do?

- (16:24) Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Those who want to come with me must say no to the things they want, pick up their crosses, and follow me.
- (16:25) Those who want to save their lives will lose them. But those who lose their lives for me will find them.
- (16:26) What good will it do for people to win the whole world and lose their lives? Or what will a person give in exchange for life?"
- (18:3) Then he said to them, "I can guarantee this truth: Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.
- (18:4) Whoever becomes like this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.
- (18:5) And whoever welcomes a child like this in my name welcomes me.
- (19:16) Then a man came to Jesus and said, "Teacher, what good deed should I do to gain eternal life?"
- (19:17) Jesus said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you want to enter into life, obey the commandments."
- (19:18) "Which commandments?" the man asked. Jesus said, "Never murder. Never commit adultery. Never steal. Never give false testimony.
- (19:19) Honour your father and mother. Love your neighbour as you love yourself."

Be a wise person

- (7:24) "Therefore, everyone who hears what I say and obeys it will be like a wise person who built a house on rock.
- (7:25) Rain poured, and floods came. Winds blew and beat against that house. But it did not collapse, because its foundation was on rock.
- (7:26) "Everyone who hears what I say but doesn't obey it will be like a foolish person who built a house on sand.
- (7:27) Rain poured, and floods came. Winds blew and struck that house. It collapsed, and the result was a total disaster."

Judging others

- (7:1) "Stop judging so that you will not be judged.
- (7:2) Otherwise, you will be judged by the same standard you use to judge others. The standards you use for others will be applied to you.