

# Week 40: Parables of the Kingdom

A Sabbath Family Bible Study

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## Introduction

When Jesus began his public teaching ministry, He did not only speak in direct commands or theological lectures. He also taught in relatable parables and simple stories drawn from daily life that revealed deep spiritual truths. These parables were not abstract illustrations, but were deliberate revelations about the Kingdom of God, what it is, who belongs to it, how it grows, and what it requires.

The Kingdom of God is not some future reality in heaven, it is God's rules in our history and out daily lives through Christ the King. It confronts pride, exposes hypocrisy, demands repentance, and produces tangible fruits. Some hear the truth and respond with obedience, most hear and walk away hardened.

This week we learn that the Kingdom is both hidden and powerful, humble in appearance yet unstoppable in growth. It requires ears to hear, hearts prepared like good soil, and lives that produce faithful fruit. The Kingdom is not inherited by birth, instead we enter it through repentance and submission to Christ's authority.

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## Scripture Reading (KJV)

(Matthew 13:3–9, Matthew 13:31–33, Matthew 13:44–46, Psalm 1: 1–6)

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### **Matthew 13:3–9 - The Parable of the Sower**

*3 And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;*

*4 And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up:*

*5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:*

*6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.*

*7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:*

*8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.*

*9 Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

### **Commentary**

The seed is the Word of God, and the soil is the human heart. The difference in outcome is not based on the quality of the seed, but the condition of the heart that receives it. Some hearts are hardened and resistant, some are shallow and emotional but lack depth, and some are distracted and choked by cares, riches, and pleasures. Only the prepared heart produces lasting fruit.

We are reminded that hearing Scripture weekly is not enough. The question is always: What kind of soil are we becoming? A household must cultivate good ground through humility, discipline, repentance, submission and obedience. The fruit you are producing is the evidence of true reception.

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### **Matthew 13:31–33 The Mustard Seed and Leaven**

*31 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field:*

*32 Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.*

*33 Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.*

### **Commentary**

God's kingdom on earth begins small, almost unnoticed at first. First a child born in Bethlehem, then a small handful of disciples, next they are planting quiet words in young hearts. What begins small can grow large, spread, and transform if it is built on the right foundations. Like leaven working through dough, the Kingdom changes everything it touches.

Families must not despise small beginnings. Faithful habits, prayer, study, correction, submission, obedience and discipline seem small, but over years they produce strength,

stability, and generational blessing. God always builds His Kingdom slow and steadily, not instantly.

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## **Matthew 13:44–46 - The Hidden Treasure and the Pearl**

*44 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.*

*45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:*

*46 Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.*

### **Commentary**

The Kingdom is priceless and worth sacrificing everything. The man who finds treasure does not bargain for partial ownership. Christ and His Kingdom demand priority above our comfort, wealth, reputation, and self-rule. A family that understands the worth of the Kingdom orders its finances, time, conversations, and ambitions under Christ's authority. Partial devotion will reveal where your true devotion lies.

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## **Discussion Questions for All Ages**

### **Young Children**

- What happens to seeds planted in good soil?
- Why is the Kingdom like a tiny seed?
- What does it mean to listen carefully to God's Word?

### **Older Children & Teens**

- What kind of "soil" do you most struggle with: hard, shallow, distracted?
- Why does God grow His Kingdom slowly instead of instantly?
- What does it mean to value God's Kingdom above everything else?

## Adults

- What distractions threaten to choke fruitfulness in your household?
  - Are you cultivating deep roots in your children or shallow enthusiasm?
  - What practical evidence shows that Christ's Kingdom truly has first place in your home?
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## Psalm Reading - Psalm 1: 1–6 (KJV)

*1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*

*2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*

*3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

*4 The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.*

*5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.*

*6 For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.*

## Commentary

Psalm 1 mirrors the Parable of the Sower. The righteous man is planted, rooted, nourished, and fruitful, while the wicked are unstable like chaff. The Kingdom always produces rooted, steady, fruitful households. Stability comes from meditation on God's Word, not emotional impulses or cultural trends.

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## Hymn: "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

By Henry Alford (1844)

1.

Come, ye thankful people, come,  
Raise the song of harvest home:

All is safely gathered in,  
Ere the winter storms begin;  
God our Maker doth provide  
For our wants to be supplied;  
Come to God's own temple, come,  
Raise the song of harvest home.

2.

All the world is God's own field,  
Fruit unto His praise to yield;  
Wheat and tares together sown  
Unto joy or sorrow grown;  
First the blade, and then the ear,  
Then the full corn shall appear;  
Lord of harvest, grant that we  
Wholesome grain and pure may be.

3.

For the Lord our God shall come,  
And shall take His harvest home;  
From His field shall in that day  
All offenses purge away;  
Give His angels charge at last  
In the fire the tares to cast;  
But the fruitful ears to store  
In His garner evermore.

4.

Even so, Lord, quickly come,  
Bring Thy final harvest home;  
Gather Thou Thy people in,  
Free from sorrow, free from sin;  
There, forever purified,  
In Thy presence to abide;  
Come, with all Thine angels, come,  
Raise the glorious harvest home.



1. **Cultivate Good Soil**

Guard your home against hardness, distraction, and shallow faith. Encourage repentance, attentiveness, and obedience.

2. **Embrace Small Beginnings**

Daily habits of faithfulness shape long-term fruit. Do not underestimate quiet obedience.

3. **Remove Thorns**

Identify distractions (media, pride, busyness, materialism) and remove them deliberately.

4. **Value the Kingdom Above All**

Teach your family that Christ's rule outranks comfort, popularity, and convenience.

5. **Expect Growth**

Trust that faithful planting produces harvest in God's timing. Remain patient and consistent.

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 **A Sabbath Feast Prayer**

Father, we thank You for revealing the mysteries of Your Kingdom through Your Son. As we sit at this table, bless this food before us and bless the loving hands that prepared it. Prepare our hearts to be good soil. Remove distraction and pride from our home. Cause Your Word to take root deeply in us, and let our family bear fruit that honors You for generations to come. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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 **Closing Prayer**

Lord Jesus, King of the Kingdom, give us ears to hear and hearts that respond. Guard our home from hardness, shallowness, and distraction. Teach us to value Your rule above every earthly treasure. Plant us firmly by the rivers of Your Word, that we may grow strong, steady, and fruitful. May our household reflect the quiet but unstoppable growth of Your Kingdom. In Your holy name we pray, Amen.