

# Matthew 13:24 - 14:36

## Day 1

### More Parables. Matthew 13:24-43

#### Parable of the Tares

1. In the parable, to what did Jesus compare the kingdom? 13:24

- What problem occurred? 13:25,26 By whom?
- How did the owner deal with it? 12:29-30

**FYI:** "*Tares zizanion* NT:2215 is a kind of darnel, the commonest of the four species...as tall as wheat and barley, and resembling wheat in appearance...The seeds are poisonous to man and herbivorous animals, producing sleepiness, nausea, convulsions and even death." - Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words

"While growing it looks like wheat, but when full grown the ears are long and the grains almost black. Each grain...must be removed before grinding wheat, or the bread is bitter and poisonous. Wheat is golden; but tares show their true colour as they ripen." - Companion Bible (1338)

#### Parables of the Mustard Seed and Leaven

2. In the next two parables, list what did Jesus compare the kingdom to and the result:

Kingdom compared to:	End result:
13:31-32	
13:33	

**FYI:** "One interpretation of these parables is that Jesus is giving a positive view of the power, growth and influence of the kingdom. Another interpretation is that the use of 'birds' (see Luke 8:5,12) and 'leaven' (Matthew 16:11,12; 1 Corinthians 5:6-8) are negative and portray a picture of the evil and corruption that will invade and permeate the earthly kingdom age before the final judgment. For example: '*The earthly aspect of God's kingdom...there is "soil" in which the "tares" sown by the enemy can thrive (v. 26), in which the "leaven" of false doctrine can spread (v. 33) and "birds of the air" that devour the good seed can lodge (v. 32).*'" - Henry Morris

3. Why do you think Jesus teaching changed to speaking only in parables to the crowds? 13:34

- What did this fulfill? 13:35 (Cf. Psalm 78:2) What was Jesus revealing when speaking in parables?

**Parable of the Tares Explained**

4. Where did Jesus go and to whom did Jesus give an explanation for the parable? 13:36  
(See Mark 4:33,34)

5. Fill in what the following represented in the parable:

✚ Sower =

✚ Field =

✚ Good seeds =

✚ Tares =

✚ Enemy =

✚ Time of Harvest = (See Matthew 24:3)

✚ Reapers =

***FYI:*** “*The end of the age* speaks of the time when the Son of Man will come to set up His righteous kingdom.”  
- The Nelson Study Bible (1599) (See Matthew 24:3)

“In both (the wheat and tares vv. 39–40 and the dragnet vv. 48–49) parables the end of the age is associated with a separation, a sorting, and a burning fire (verses 40 and 50). Jesus used the phrase *the end of the age* to refer to that time in the future when the kingdom of God is established, true justice reigns, and the wicked are judged.”  
- <https://www.gotquestions.org/end-of-the-age.html>

6. What did the parable portray? 13:40 (See 13:49)

- What terms describe those who will be judged? 13:41
- What terms describe those who will be left? 13:43

7. How do you think the disciples felt after hearing this explanation? What part would have given them hope and joy?

***Applying the Word:*** How does God’s understanding and control of the future make you feel about dealing with anomosity and unbelief in this world?

## Day 2

Parables Continued. Read Matthew 13:44-52

### **Parables of the Hidden Treasure and Pearl**

8. In the next two parables, list what the kingdom is compared to and the reaction to it:

Kingdom compared to:	Person's reaction to finding it:
13:44	
13:45,46	

9. What would these parables say to the disciples about the value and priority one should give to following the Lord? (See how Paul felt about everything else. Philippians 3:8)

**FYI:** "Stripped of their grand dreams of an immediate, powerful kingdom of David and facing the prospect of much opposition on all sides, the disciples were forced to count the cost...The central truth being taught is the immense value of the kingdom, which far outweighs any sacrifice or inconvenience one might encounter on earth...Though the first individual found his by accident, the second found his by diligent search. No matter how a person is led...its values and delights will be beyond estimation." - The Nelson Study Bible (1599)

### **Parable of the Dragnet**

10. What was gathered with the dragnet? 13:47 What did they do with the fish? 13:48

- How does this similar to the Parable of the Tares (13:24-29)?

**FYI:** "A net let down in the Sea of Galilee would have caught both edible and inedible, clean and unclean fish, and the fishermen would have had to sort their catch." - Africa Bible Commentary (1139)

11. What does this parable illustrate? 13:49,50 (When will this happen?)

### **Parable of the Teacher/Scribe**

12. To whom did Jesus compare the disciples understandin? 13:51,52

**FYI: Yes, they replied** "The disciples certainly understood more than the crowds; on the other hand, they are shortly to be rebuked for their dullness."  
**a disciple of/trained in the kingdom** [indicates that] "his allegiance has been transformed... Discipleship to Jesus, recognition of the revelation of who He is (is and that He) brings...are necessary prerequisites to understanding and bringing out the rich treasures of the kingdom." - Expositor's Bible Commentary

13. With what new and old *treasures* would the disciples need to be responsible stewards?  
18:52b (See Luke 24:44,45; Acts 17:2,3)

**FYI:** "Matthew emphasized the continuity between the OT and the words and works of Jesus...The disciples understand Christ's teaching because what they learned from Him was built on the fine heritage of the OT. What they had before they came to Christ was useful in complementing the new knowledge they were gaining from Him."  
- Africa Bible Commentary (1139)

**Applying the Word:** *Have you ever found yourself so familiar with the stories about Jesus that you miss their impact? What helps you to look at them with fresh eyes?*

### Day 3

Jesus' Hometown; John's Death; Feeding the 5,000. Read Matthew 13:53-14:21

#### **Jesus Teaches in His Hometown**

14. How did the people in Jesus' hometown react to His teaching and why? 13:54
15. What difficulty did they have with His background? 13:55-57a (Note the titles they gave to Jesus.)
- Why do you think this caused them to take "offense" (stumble)?  
(For another example see John 6:42)
16. What did Jesus say about their unbelief? 13:57b
- What was the result of their unbelief? 13:58

***Digging Deeper***  
What did Isaiah prophesy about Jesus' reception on earth? Isaiah 53:2,3

**FYI:** "It is truly remarkable that Jesus was, in some manner, limited by their unbelief. As long as God chooses to work in concert with human agency, developing our ability to partner with Him, our unbelief will hinder the work of God."  
- David Guzik

#### **John's Death**

17. To what did Herod attribute Jesus power? 14:1,2 What does this say about the wonder of the works Jesus was performing? (Where had this idea originated? Mark 6:14)

18. Why had Herod arrested John? 14:3,4 (See Leviticus 18:16)

- Why had he allowed him to live? 14:5 (See also Mark 6:20)

**FYI:** "When Herod the Great died in 4 BC, the Romans divided his territory between his surviving sons, Archelaus (2:22), Herod Antipas and Philip. Archelaus was assigned Judea, but he was so cruel that he was soon deposed and his territory governed by a succession of Roman procurators. Herod Antipas received the territories of Samaria (his other had been a Samaritan), Galilee and Perea. Antipas was never given the title 'king', but was officially referred to as **Herod the tetrarch**, a minor local ruler." - Africa Bible Commentary (1140)

19. How did Herodias and her daughter trick Herod? 14:6-8 What picture does this give you of these relationships? (See the sheet *Herod's family tree*.)

20. To what pressures did Herod succumb? 14:9

- How decadent were Herodias' actions? 14:8,11

21. How did Jesus hear about John's death? 14:12 How did he react? 14:13

- When the crowds followed, how did Jesus respond to the interruption? 14:14
- What do these two responses teach you about Jesus' character?

***Digging Deeper***

For what other reasons did Jesus seek seclusion for Himself and His disciples?

Mark 1:35; Luke 6:12

Mark 6:30-32

John 6:3

**Jesus Feeds the Crowds**

22. What was the disciples' solution to feeding the crowds? 14:15

23. Why do you think Jesus told the disciples to provide the food themselves? 14:16 (Compare John 6:5-6)

- What does their answer reveal about their perspective and understanding? 14:17 Do you think they are showing any faith? Explain.

24. What did Jesus do to multiply the food? 14:18,19 What power does this show?

- How sufficient was the supply of food? 14:20,21 (How do you think the disciples and the people were reacting as the food was being distributed?)

25. What do you see Jesus teaching the disciples through this experience? The feeding of the 5000 is the only miracle recorded in all four gospels? Why do you think God gave so much importance to this event?

**FYI:** "Jesus was now too popular to retreat into quietness. Wherever He went, large crowds recognized Him and followed Him...His compassion for the people knew no limits." - Africa Bible Commentary (1140)

**Applying the Word:** *How do you feel about unwanted interruptions in your day, especially when you are tired or sad or dealing with stressful situations? What focus or perspective would take to have more of Jesus' gracious response?*

## Day 4

Jesus Walks on Water. Read Matthew 14:22-36

26. Where did Jesus and the disciples go after Jesus fed the 5000? 14:22,23 (Note the *when* and see John 6:14,15 for the *why*.)

- What does Jesus' need for prayer say about Him? (Cf. Mark 1:35) (*Although the communication between God the Father and God the Son go beyond our understanding, what was Jesus always seeking? John 5:30*)

27. What different factors were making the situation dangerous for the disciples in the boat? 14:24

28. What did Jesus do? 14:25 Had the sea been calmed yet? What does this add to the picture?

- How did the disciples respond? 14:26

20. How did Jesus calm them? 14:27 Note His three part answer to their three part fears: “they were terrified...It’s a ghost...cried out in fear”(v. 26).

- What had they experienced earlier? 8:24-26 How was this situation different? What new dimensions to Jesus’ power and presence were they experiencing?

**FYI:** “*It is I*” may also be translated ‘*I am*’ (see Ex. 3:14)”

- The Nelson Study Bible (1600)

21. Why do you think Peter made such a bold request of Jesus? 14:28 How much courage and trust would this have taken?

- Why do you think Jesus granted his request? 14:29

22. What happened to Peter’s focus? 14:30

- What power did it take to save Him? 14:31 Why did Jesus rebuke him?

23. What other miracle occurred? 14:32

- How did the disciples respond? 14:33 Why do you think they hadn’t worshipped Him earlier when He fed the 5000?

24. What happened when they landed in Gennesaret? 14:34,35 (See John 6:21) What kind of crowds would these have been?

- How amazing were the healings? 14:36 (Compare Acts 19:11,12)

25. What kind of dominion and power belong to Jesus Christ?

- Colossians 1:15-17
- Hebrews 1:2-3

26. Underline what Christ's power does for us, in us and through us

- 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, NKJ
- 2 Corinthians 12:9 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ESV
- 2 Peter 1:2,3 Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us by his own glory and goodness. NIV
- Ephesians 3:16,17,20 I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. 17 Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong... 20 Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. NLT
- Philippians 4:19 And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. NIV
- Philippians 1:6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. NIV
- Romans 8:37-39 In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. ESV

***Applying the Word:*** What kinds of fears and doubts hinder your faith? What do think the Lord would say to you? How would He want to change your focus?