

Jesus' Kingdom Parables

Jesus often used parables to teach his followers about the kingdom of God. His stories and analogies sometimes confused his followers, but Jesus patiently but urgently described what God's kingdom looks like, what its values are, and how the people of his kingdom should behave. Jesus' kingdom parables still reveal aspects of God's kingdom and point the way for his people today.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What is a parable? What is the purpose of a parable?
- Which of Jesus' parables come to mind when you hear the phrase "kingdom parables"?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Jesus' Kingdom Parables](#)

READ [Matthew 13](#), [Matthew 20:1-16](#), [Matthew 22:1-14](#), [Luke 17:20-21](#), [Matthew 25:1-13](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- In the [Matthew 13](#) parables that hosts Darrell Delaney and Scott Hoezee discussed, Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to tiny but powerful and valuable things of this world. What characteristics of God's kingdom caught your attention as you studied the parables of the weeds, the mustard seed, the yeast, the hidden treasure, and the pearl?
- In segment 2, Scott shared a valuable reflection from Barbara Brown Taylor on Jesus' parable of the workers in the vineyard that helps us focus on God's grace. Ask yourself: Do you think of yourself as a one-hour worker or a twelve-hour worker? Does God's grace give you joy like a one-hour worker? How might you cultivate that joy in your daily life?
- What do you think about Jesus' revelation that the kingdom of God is in your midst, within you? How does that truth make you feel?
- What does it look like in your life to be ready, watchful, and faithful in the kingdom of God?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Mark 4:1-20](#), [Luke 8:4-15](#), [Luke 12:35-48](#), [Deuteronomy 28:1-6](#)

CONCLUSION

God's kingdom is different from earthly kingdoms. Through his parables, he taught that the kingdom of God is about being saved by grace alone, that those who society looks down on are included, and that it's a gift given to you that cannot be earned on merit. How did Jesus' parables help you better understand God's kingdom? As Scott and Darrell reminded us, it is the Holy Spirit who reveals the meaning of Jesus' parables, giving us the ability to understand. Close your time in prayer; ask God for clarity for your questions and offer thanksgiving for your understanding.

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