

What is the Kingdom? August 25, 2024

Matthew 19:23-24, *“Truly I say to you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴ Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”*

Matthew 13:11, *“To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven.”*

Mark 4:11, *“To you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of God.”*

Matthew 13:24-30, *“Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶ But when the wheat sprouted and bore grain, then the tares became evident also. ²⁷ The slaves of the landowner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’ ²⁸ And he said to them, ‘An enemy has done this!’ The slaves said to him, ‘Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?’ ²⁹ But he said, ‘No; for while you are gathering up the tares, you may uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰ Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn.””*

1. A Man Who Sowed Good Seed

Tare: a poisonous troublesome weed that resembles wheat in many ways but is worthless, a dandelion. Figuratively, a tare is a pseudo-believer, one who looks like they’re a Christian, yet secretly poisons anyone willing to consume their ways.

Matthew 13:31-32, *“Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field; ³² and this is smaller than all other seeds, but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches.”*

2. A Mustard Seed

Matthew 13:33, *“Jesus spoke another parable to them, “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three pecks of flour until it was all leavened.”*

3. Leaven

Matthew 13:36-43, *“Then Jesus left the crowds and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field.”³⁷ And Jesus said, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man,³⁸ and the field is the world; and as for the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil one;³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels.⁴⁰ So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age.⁴¹ The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness,⁴² and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.⁴³ Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”*

Matthew 13:44, *“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”*

4. A Treasure Hidden in a Field

Matthew 13:45-46, *“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls,⁴⁶ and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.”*

5. A Merchant Seeking Fine Pearls

Matthew 13:47-50, *“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea, and gathering fish of every kind;⁴⁸ and when it was filled, they drew it up on the beach; and they sat down and gathered the good fish into containers, but the bad they threw away.⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come forth and take out the wicked from among the righteous,⁵⁰ and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”*

6. A Fishing Net

Matthew 13:51-52, *“Have you understood all these things?” They said to Him, “Yes.”⁵² And Jesus said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a head of a household, who brings out of his treasure things new and old.”*