

JESUS CHRIST

MATTHEW 8-16

ev/church

Kingdom Parables Week 5: Matthew 13:1-52

The Big Idea:

Jesus teaches about the kingdom of heaven in parables, sorting his listeners into those who respond and those who won't.

Introduction

Why do you think Jesus is known to many people as a great teacher?

Context: What struck you from the sermon on the weekend?

Read Matthew 13:1-52

- 1. Go through the first parable together as a group.**
 - **Who is the audience?**
 - **What are the key points Jesus is making?**
 - **What response does Jesus want?**
 - **What responses are seen?**
- 2. Split up the other parables in pairs/groups. Have each group answer the 4 questions above. Then come back and go through the key points of each parable together?** (Group 1 - 13:24-30, 36-43; Group 2 - 13:31-33; Group 3 - 13:44-46; Group 4 - 14:47-50; Group 5 - 13:52)
 - Come back together. Looking at the key points Jesus made in the parables, what ideas are coming through?
 - By putting these parables together like this, what is Matthew wanting us to know about kingdom?
 - Which of these ideas is important for us? How should it shape us?
- 3. Why does Jesus use parables?** (13:10-17; 34-35)
 - Do you find this surprising?
 - What's required to understand the parables?

- What things work against people responding rightly to Jesus?

4. Jesus still speaks through his word doing the same work today. What kind of listener do you want to be?

- How have you seen God work through his word in your life?
- What word choking weeds do we need to be aware of so that we can continue to listen well?

Pray