

Parables of the Kingdom

Matthew 13

by Don Falkos

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Jesus told a story about seed falling on four different kinds of soil, representing four different ways people respond to hearing the word of God.

His disciples asked, "Why do you speak in parables?"

Jesus replied, "Those who want to understand must listen. Those who don't listen, even what they think they understand will become meaningless. As the prophet Isaiah said, 'They look but don't see. They listen but don't understand. If they did, they would turn to me, and I would heal them.' "

Then Jesus told a story about a farmer whose field was infested with weeds. He told the farmhands, "Pull the weeds first and tie them into bundles to be burned. Then gather the wheat into the barn."

Explaining to his disciples, Jesus said, "At the end of the age, the angels will weed out all that is evil, and the righteous will enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

Another time Jesus gave several illustrations of what the Kingdom of Heaven is like:

- ...a tiny mustard seed that grew into a tree where birds nested.
- ...yeast that a woman mixed with a large quantity of flour.
- ...a man who sold all he had to buy a great treasure he had found.
- ...fishermen who kept the good fish from their net but threw the bad fish away.

Then Jesus said, "Many have longed to hear the Kingdom of Heaven proclaimed, but they didn't hear it. And they longed to see the seeds of the kingdom take root, but they didn't see it. That privilege is yours.

"The centuries-old hopes of Israel are finally finding expression in the good news of the Kingdom of Heaven."