

# TELOS

*Telos (Greek): def.: striving for a goal, completing your purpose . It means achieving maturity, and undivided wholeness in a person's behavior. For the Christian it means becoming like Jesus.*

*"We proclaim Christ, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ"*

*Col. 1:28*

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## *Matthew Chapter 13*

There have been several people over the past few years that have questioned whether or not it was a good idea for Canadian Bible College to make the move to Calgary. I myself questioned it on several occasions. After all, it seemed like the only reason given was to become accredited and gain a University College status. It was like the college was going to become "secularized" and succumb to the pressures of "the world". The college wanted to offer University accredited programs and it looked as if they were going to stop at nothing to get it.

If we look at Matthew chapter 13 we can see that Jesus gained the attention of his listeners by presenting the good news in terms which His audience could understand. In chapter 13 alone there are eight different instances where Jesus has used images from the work world. Jesus himself was a carpenter by trade and at that time carpenters weren't restricted to working with wood. They also worked with stone and metal. Carpenters in that day would produce everything from furniture to farm implements and would be involved in the construction of houses and other buildings. If you worked as a carpenter you would no doubt gain a broad knowledge in other professions as well. This added knowledge would aid in Jesus' ministry as he knew how to relate to the world in which people worked and lived.

Although it was difficult to see at first, this was one of the main reasons why the college wanted to move to Calgary. To become accredited and offer University accredited courses and programs at a Christian college. This would help to ground students in their faith while still allowing them to gain a degree enabling them to enter a highly secularized workforce and becoming lights unto the world.

# FOLLOW ME

Experience the Loving Leadership of Jesus

### Kingdom Principle #3:

*Jesus repentance as an initial event that becomes a helps me embrace life-long process of following Him.*

### Memory Verse:

*But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Matthew 13:23*

DAILY BIBLE STUDY

# Monday

## Parable of Sower - Matthew 13:1-9 and 13:18-23

### Passage Preview

Jesus, sitting in a boat, addresses a large crowd gathered on the shore. His message is presented as a series of parables. The first one tells of a farmer who is planting seed in different soils and how the seed grows in each soil.

### Key Words

- Birds: Birds are often biblical symbols of evil. (see Jeremiah 5:26, 27 and Revelation 18:2)

### Read Matthew 13:1-9

<sup>1</sup> That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. <sup>2</sup> Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. <sup>3</sup> Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. <sup>4</sup> As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup> Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. <sup>8</sup> Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop--a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. <sup>9</sup> He who has ears, let him hear."

Break in context

### Read Matthew 13:18-23

<sup>18</sup> "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: <sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. <sup>20</sup> The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. <sup>21</sup> But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. <sup>22</sup> The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. <sup>23</sup> But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

1. What idea stood out to you? Why?

2. For the first three soils fill out the following:

| Location (soil) | Condition of Soil | What happened to the plants? |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| a)              |                   |                              |
| b)              |                   |                              |
| c)              |                   |                              |

Now that which distinguished this good ground from the rest, was, in one word, fruitfulness. He does not say that this good ground has no stones in it, or no thorns; but there were none that prevailed to hinder its fruitfulness. Saints, in this world, are not perfectly free from the remains of sin; but happily freed from the reign of it.  
Matthew Henry (1662-1714).

3. From verse 23, how is the person who represents the good soil described?

4. **Kingdom Question:** "Having ears to hear" (verse 9) is a condition of surrender or willingness to apply rather than to shut out His kingdom message. Are your spiritual ears in tune to God? What, if anything, might be giving you hearing problems?

5. What are the "crops" described in verse 23?

## Summary

We may inquire which of these soils represent “saved” and “unsaved” individuals, perhaps because we are trying to figure out if we, or some loved one, are ‘going to make it.’ But if this is our focus we are missing the main point. Only those who represent the good soil are approved because that is where fruit is produced, and fruitfulness is the test of a life. (See John 15:1-6)

## Prayer

Lord, help me to listen more closely to what you are saying in my life. Allow me to see all of the opportunities to bear fruit for your kingdom.

# Tuesday

## Reasons for Parables - Matthew 13:10-17

### Passage Preview

Jesus answers his disciples' questions about why he speaks in parables.

### Key Words

- Calloused: Hard, unfeeling, scabbed over.
- Perceiving: detecting, discerning, or being aware of.
- Parables: stories that use familiar cultural themes to relate Kingdom truth.

### Read Matthew 13:10-17

<sup>10</sup> *The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?”*

<sup>11</sup> *He replied, “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. <sup>12</sup> Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.*

<sup>13</sup> *This is why I speak to them in parables:*

*“Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand.”*

<sup>14</sup> *In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:*

*“You will be ever hearing but never understanding;  
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. <sup>15</sup> For this people’s  
heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and  
they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes,  
hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I  
would heal them.*

<sup>16</sup> *But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear.*

<sup>17</sup> *For I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.*

1. What idea stood out to you? Why?
2. In verse 15, what reasons does Jesus give for people not comprehending His kingdom secrets?

For those who neither see nor understand, everything comes as parables (i.e., obscurely). They are the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy about a people whose spiritual faculties have grown dull. Read Isaiah 6:9-10. (*NIBC; Matthew* by Robert Mounce, pg. 128).

3. What reason does Jesus give for speaking in parables?

4. **Kingdom Question:** Cross-reference verse 12 with Luke 12:45-48. With understanding comes responsibility. Make a short list (4-8) of “secrets of the kingdom” into which God has given you insight. What responsibilities do the understanding of these insights give you? How will your response to this knowledge affect your life?

### **Summary**

In our obedience to God and in our desire to communicate the good news to family, friends and beyond we strive to make the gospel clear, contemporary or even entertaining. God, who knows the condition of the heart (Luke 9:47, Luke 16:15), reveals to whom He will and hides from whom He will the secrets of His kingdom. Faithful telling of the good news is our job, revelation is God's.

### **Prayer**

Father I pray that you will guide the church to become more relevant to those who haven't heard your message, and to remain faithful in the telling of the good news.

# **Wednesday**

## **Weeds Among the Wheat - 13:24-30 and 13:36-43**

### **Passage Preview**

Jesus tells a parable that explains how both the sons of the kingdom and the sons of the evil one will grow up together in the world and how it is His responsibility to separate out the sons of the evil one.

### **Key Words**

- Weeds: Refers to a specific kind of dandelion that grows as tall as wheat and resembles wheat in appearance.

**Read Matthew 13:24-30**

<sup>24</sup> Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. <sup>25</sup> But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. <sup>26</sup> When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

<sup>27</sup> "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?'

<sup>28</sup> "An enemy did this,' he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'

<sup>29</sup> "No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. <sup>30</sup> Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn."

Break in context

**Read Matthew 13:36-43**

<sup>36</sup> Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field."

<sup>37</sup> He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, <sup>39</sup> and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

<sup>40</sup> "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup> The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. <sup>42</sup> They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup> Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

1. What idea stood out to you? Why?

2. Define the "Players" in this parable:

Good seed = \_\_\_\_\_

Weeds = \_\_\_\_\_

Sower of good seed = \_\_\_\_\_

Sower of weeds = \_\_\_\_\_

Harvesters = \_\_\_\_\_

Owner = \_\_\_\_\_

Owner's Servants = \_\_\_\_\_

3. How did the owner answer the servants who were willing to begin pulling up the weeds? Whose job is it to separate out the weeds? When?

Under whose direction?

4. **Kingdom Question:** In verse 29, what is the reason Jesus gives the servants not to pull the weeds? How would God have you respond to people who call themselves Christians but don't seem like it to you? Why?

### Summary

Although we have a responsibility to live and teach truth in such a manner that error is refuted, this parable makes it clear that it is not our responsibility to try to root out of the world (His field) those who appear to us be false Christians.

### Prayer

Lord I pray that you would speak to those who may be living their lives as false Christians. I ask that you would give them a better sense of what it means to be a true follower of you.

## Thursday

### **Parables: Mustard Seed, Leaven, Hidden Treasure, and Costly Pearl - Matthew 13:31-35 and 13:44-50**

#### Passage Preview

Jesus tells another group of parables that provide insight into what the Kingdom of Heaven is like.

#### Key Words

- Yeast: Represents sin when used symbolically in scripture.

#### Read Matthew 13:31-35

<sup>31</sup> He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. <sup>32</sup> Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so

that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches."

<sup>33</sup> He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough."

<sup>34</sup> Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. <sup>35</sup> So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet: "I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world."

Break in context

**Read Matthew 13:44-50**

<sup>44</sup> "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

<sup>45</sup> "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. <sup>46</sup> When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup> "Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish.

<sup>48</sup> When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. <sup>49</sup> This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous <sup>50</sup> and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Jewish women did not use fresh yeast each day to leaven their barley or wheat bread, but a small piece of fermented dough from the previous day's batch. However, three measures was an enormous amount of flour – close to fifty pounds! How could that much flour be leavened by the usual amount of previously leavened dough? Jesus' parable – at its point – must have come to mind every day as the women kneaded their dough. Fifty pounds of flour leavened by such a small amount of dough... the kingdom of God brought about by way of such a small number of faithful people. (*The Word in Life Study Bible* pg. 58).

1. What idea stood out to you? Why?

2. Fill out the following information about the five parables in today's passage.

| Kingdom of Heaven is like | Who is involved | Action | Results |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--------|---------|
|                           |                 |        |         |
|                           |                 |        |         |
|                           |                 |        |         |
|                           |                 |        |         |
|                           |                 |        |         |

3. What are the recurring symbols or themes?

4. **Kingdom Question:** Cross-reference verses 44 & 45 with I Peter 1:18-19. What price was paid to purchase your redemption? Read I Corinthians 6:20 (if time permits read 12-20). What should be your response to the price that was paid for you?

#### **Summary**

"The kingdom of heaven is like..." Jesus has continued painting a picture of what His kingdom looks like. He reinforces that those in his kingdom will face evil in the world and reminds us of the great worth he places on us and the price He paid to purchase us (His followers) out of the world.

#### **Prayer**

Father God I thank you once again for your Son and the price that he had to pay in order that we would be reconciled to you. Lord help us to, in some way, love You the same way that You love us.

## **Friday**

### **"The Ultimate Cover for Rebellion"**

#### **Read Chapter 12 in the Follow Me Book**

#### **Introduction**

Hide N' Seek. You're familiar with the game. How about the real life version? Strangely enough, when it comes to God, Religion itself is one of the safest hiding places there is. We all fall into one of two categories. We're either hiders or we're seekers. If we are truly seekers, then we're constantly trying to expose our hiding places, especially our religious ones.

1. Think back to before you were a Christian. What were some of the ways you attempted to build acceptable bridges to God?



These TELOS materials have been adapted with permission from the "Follow Me" discipleship Curriculum produced by North Shore Baptist Church in Bothell, WA and based on the book Follow Me by Jan David Hettinga and the gospel of Matthew.

*This week's editor:*  
*Aaron Barrington*

The mission of TELOS is to help you develop the beliefs, practices and virtues of a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ. TELOS is one component of our strategy at Trailview of living out our call to become a "community of servants who live to fulfill the Great Commission.

All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version, Copyright 1973, 1978, International Bible Society.

### Review the Kingdom Principles:

- Kingdom Principle # 1:  
***Jesus is the safest of all leaders. He invites me to trust and follow Him.***
- Kingdom Principle # 2:  
***Jesus leads me to understand that sin is intentional rebellion and self-absorption.***
- Write out Kingdom Principle #3

Please spend time praying for the Pastor as he prepares to preach this Sunday.

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⇒ If you have any comments or questions about TELOS please direct them to Pastor Ken at the church office:  
phone: 773-4433 or email: ken.trailview@sasktel.net

### Kingdom Principle #3:

***Jesus helps me embrace repentance as an initial event that becomes a life-long process of following Him.***

### Memory Verse:

***But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Matthew 13:23***