

DATE: April 5, 2020

TEXT: **MATTHEW 13:1-9**

TOPIC: THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN (HONORING GOD AND HELPING OTHERS)

TITLE: **THIS WORLD MIGHT SEE DEATH BUT GOD'S KINGDOM IS FULL OF LIFE**

LESSONS OF THE PARABLE:

WHAT IS A PARABLE?

- A SPECIFIC STORY WHICH JESUS, THE SON OF GOD, WOULD USE TO COMMUNICATE TRUTH TO THOSE WHO WERE GENUINELY SEEKING IT.
- READ **MATTHEW 13: 34, 35**

WHY WOULD JESUS USE THEM?

- PEOPLE HAD DIFFERENT MOTIVES FOR LISTENING TO JESUS. THOSE WHO WANTED TO LEARN FROM JESUS WOULD GAIN GREATER UNDERSTANDING BY LISTENING TO HIM, AND THOSE WHO WERE NOT OPEN TO THE TRUTH WOULD NOT LEARN ANYTHING.
- IN OTHER WORDS, THOSE WHO DIDN'T WANT TO GROW IN THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE THINGS OF HEAVEN (LIKE ETERNAL LIFE WITH HIM) – WHICH JESUS WAS MAKING KNOWN TO THEM – THEN THEY WOULD UNFORTUNATELY WALK AWAY UNCHANGED.
- READ **MATTHEW 13: 12, 13**

WHY MIGHT JESUS BE IN A BOAT?

- INTERESTING THAT JESUS IS HERE SPEAKING TO THE PEOPLE FROM A BOAT. ITS AS IF HE IS SHOWING US HIS DESIRE TO GO TO OTHER PLACES, BUT FOR NOW HE IS WANTING TO SPEAK TO THOSE - ON THE SHORE - WHO WILL REMAIN BEHIND.

WHO IS THE FARMER?

- IN THIS STORY, WE CAN PRESUME THAT JESUS IS REFERENCING HIMSELF. FOR, WHEN HE EXPLAINS ANOTHER PARABLE TO HIS DISCIPLES, HE TELLS THEM (MATTHEW 13:37) THE FARMER IS 'THE SON OF MAN' – A TITLE WHICH JESUS USED FOR HIMSELF.

WHAT IS THE FARMER DOING IN THE STORY, AND WHY MIGHT THIS BE BENEFICIAL FOR US?

- THE FARMER IS PLANTING SEEDS, WITH THE EXPECTATION TO EVENTUALLY BE ABLE TO HARVEST SOMETHING THAT IS GOOD, OR BENEFICIAL. HE NOT ONLY WANTS TO GET SOMETHING GOOD IN RETURN FOR HIS EFFORTS BUT HE WANTS THIS FOR US AS WELL.

WHAT DO THE SEEDS REPRESENT?

- IN THE STORY WE LEARN THE SEEDS PLANTED BY THE FARMER REPRESENTS GOD'S MESSAGE ABOUT THE KINGDOM. THE GOOD NEWS. TO GIVE US LIFE WITH HIM.

WHY DO SOME SEEDS GIVE BETTER RESULTS?

- **(V4)** SEEDS ON THE FOOTPATH - **(V19)** THOSE WHO HEAR THE MESSAGE ABOUT THE KINGDOM DON'T UNDERSTAND IT. THE DEVIL COMES AND TAKES THE SEED AWAY.
- **(V5)** SEEDS ON SHALLOW SOIL – **(V20)** THOSE WHO HEAR THE MESSAGE WILL RECEIVE IT WITH JOY BUT WON'T LAST LONG BECAUSE OF PROBLEMS THEY ENCOUNTER IN LIFE.

- (V7) SEEDS AMONG THORNS – (V22) THOSE WHO HEAR GOD’S WORD BUT IT GETS PUSHED ASIDE BECAUSE OF THE WORRIES OF THIS LIFE OR THE PURSUIT OF WEALTH.
- (V8) SEEDS ON FERTILE SOIL – (V23) THOSE WHO TRULY HEAR AND UNDERSTAND GOD’S WORD WILL BENEFIT FROM AN ABUNDANT HARVEST.

HOW MIGHT THE STORY OF SEEDS BEING PLANTED IN THE FIELD BE COMPARED TO MY LIFE?

- WHEN JESUS EXPLAINS THE PARABLE TO HIS DISCIPLES, HE LETS THEM KNOW THAT THE FIELD IS THE WORLD (V37).
- THE FARMER WHO PLANTS THE GOOD SEED IS JESUS. THE GOOD SEED REPRESENTS THE PEOPLE OF THE KINGDOM (V38).

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS:

- Q: CAN YOU RECOGNIZE ALL THE GOOD THAT HAS BEEN PLACED IN YOUR LIFE?
- A: READ **JAMES 1: 17**

- Q: WHAT GOOD NEWS DO WE FIND IN THIS PARABLE?
- A: THE FARMER HAS DONE THE NECESSARY WORK. AND THOSE WHO CARE FOR THE GOOD SEEDS THAT HAVE BEEN PLANTED AROUND US WILL ULTIMATELY ENJOY A GREAT HARVEST – THAT GIVES A GREATER RETURN THAN ANY INVESTMENT YOU CAN MAKE.

- Q: HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD?
- A: READ **EPHESIANS 2: 1-10** [HONORING GOD AND HELPING OTHERS]
- A: READ **ROMANS 10: 14-15**
- A: WE ARE TO KNOW GOD’S WORD AND TO GO DO WHAT HE SAYS.

- Q: DO YOU KNOW WHAT GOD IS SAYING TO YOU NOW?
- A: **TO THE BELIEVER:** - GOD WANTS YOU TO SHOW GRATITUDE TO HIM AND TO GO AND BRING GOD’S BLESSING TO THE WORLD.
- A: **TO THE NOT-YET BELIEVER:** - GOD WANTS YOU TO SEE THE GOOD HE HAS PLACED IN YOUR LIFE AND TO JOIN WITH HIM AND THOSE WHO ARE INTENTIONALLY WORKING TO BRING GOD’S BLESSING (HIS GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE) TO THE WORLD.

- Q: DO YOU WANT TO JOIN GOD IN BRINGING GOOD (LIFE) TO EVERYONE?
- A: IT’S AS EASY AS SAYING GOODBYE TO THE THINGS OF THIS WORLD AND BEGIN TO SEEK THE BEST WHICH GOD HAS IN MIND FOR YOU. TELL HIM YOU WANT TO RECEIVE FORGIVENESS FOR THE WRONGS YOU’VE DONE AND TO ENJOY LIFE FOLLOWING HIM.

- **REMINDER:** GOD IS SO RICH IN MERCY AND HE LOVES YOU AND I SO VERY MUCH. EVEN THOUGH WE WERE ONCE DISOBEDIENT TO HIM HE’S WILLING TO GIVE US LIFE. WE ONLY NEED TO BELIEVE THE SACRIFICE HE MADE FOR US IS THE GIFT WE NEED TODAY. AND AS THE RESULT OF ACCEPTING THIS GIFT, YOU AND I WILL BEGIN TO HONOR HIM.