

Discussion Questions Matthew Chapter 13

1. **Parable of the Sower: Read Matthew 13:1-8, 18-23, 37; Luke 8:4-15.** Why didn't the sower just sow on the good ground? What can we learn from this?
 - A. The seed in Matthew 13:5 "sprang up" like the seed in 13:8 did as well apparently. What is the difference in their respective growth? How have you seen this work itself out in either your life or someone else?
 - B. Jesus seems to divide his listeners into two groups: "insiders" and "outsiders". Who are the "insiders" and who are the "outsiders"?
 - C. At this point, all three Synoptic gospels quote Isaiah 6:9-10. What does Isaiah say is the cause of people being on the "outside"? What is required for one to move from the "outside" to the "inside"? (cf. John 3:3,5; 36)
 - D. Think about how hardships can choke the word of God. Describe how you might find that happening in your life now, or how it may have happened to you in the past.
2. **The Parables of the Weeds & The Net.** What is the setting and who is the audience for Jesus' original telling these parables? What is the setting and audience for Jesus' explanation of the parables?
3. What do these characters stand for and what lessons can we learn from:
 - a. The man who sowed good seed/wheat in his field, in contrast with the man's enemy who sowed weeds/tares among the wheat?
 - b. The servants who noticed and asked about the weeds/tares, in contrast with the reapers/harvesters who collect the weeds/tares and gather in the wheat at the harvest time?
4. "Let both grow together until the harvest" (v. 30). How does this relate to what Christ teaches elsewhere about church discipline (Matthew 18:15-20)?
 - a. What is the proper application of verse 30 for Christians today?
 - b. Write down one application from this parable for your life.

5. What does the Parable of the Mustard Seed reveal about the hidden nature of the Kingdom of God? (See Zech 4:10)

6. **Read Matthew 13:44-46; Exodus 19:5; Deuteronomy 7:6-8; Psalm 135:4; Malachi 3:17; Ephesians 1:18; Colossians 3:1-4; I Peter 1:18-19.**

1. Give your own explanation of the parable of the hidden Treasure.

a. What does the treasure represent?

b. Whom does the buyer represent?

c. What does Hiding the treasure after it is found mean?

Read Matthew 13:47-58; Isaiah 49:1-12.

7. In the parable of the Net, what is meant by the following: (Give verses for as many points as you can, using also the interpretation given by Jesus.)

a. The net

b. The sea

c. The good fish

d. The bad fish

e. The fishers who sat down to sort good from bad

f. The destruction of the bad

g. New and Old Treasures

8. What similarities are there in the explanation of Matthew 13:39-43 and 13:49-50?

9. What most impacted you personally from this lesson?