



HOPE
LOWERTOWN
ST. PAUL



HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH IN 2020

This Weeks Sermon

“What is the Kingdom of God: Good Ground”

Matthew 13:1-23

What do we know about this Kingdom?

A definition

No doubt can be entertained that both in the Old Testament and in Jewish literature, (*basileia*), when applied to God, means always the 'kingly rule', never 'the kingdom' as if it were meant to suggest the territory governed by Him.

~Norval Geldenhuys, *The New International Commentary on the New Testament: The Gospel of Luke*, (Eerdmans: Grand Rapids, 1979), 179.

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- 6. It was spoken*

What is a parable?

Grasp the text in their town

Matthew 13:1-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake.

²Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³Then he

told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Some fell on rocky places,

where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants.

⁸Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹Whoever has ears,

let them hear.”

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The Word and the hearers

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

¹¹ He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them.

¹² Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ¹³ This is why I speak to them in parables:

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

Matthew 13:1-23

¹⁴ In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:
“ ‘You will be ever hearing but never understanding;
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.

¹⁵ 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.’

Matthew 13:1-23

¹⁶ But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. ¹⁷ For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

¹⁸ “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰ The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.

The four types of hearers

Matthew 13:1-23

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²² The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²³ But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

The Word and the sowers

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- 2. This is growth in terms of agriculture*

Ephesians 2:1-10

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh ^m and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

Ephesians 2:1-10

⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,
⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Gospel Application

What kind of soil/hearer are you?

Gospel Application

What kind of soil/hearer are you?

Do you sow the seed of the Word?