

The Kingdom Parables

Points to Consider

1. The Small Becomes Large
2. The Kingdom of Heaven is Valuable
3. The Day of Sorting

The Small Becomes Large

Matt 13:31-32

The kingdom of heaven is going to start small and end up _____.

Dan 2:31-35 *You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. 32 This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, 33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. 34 You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. 35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.....44 And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.*

God revealed this same principle to Nebuchadnezzar in this vision that he was teaching the disciples in the New Testament. In Nebuchadnezzar's vision, the last kingdom was _____ kingdom. It will destroy all other kingdoms, it will not be given to men, and it will stand forever.

Jesus Himself had a humble earthly beginning.

Isa 53:2-3 *For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground.*

He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. 3 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

The King Himself was despised and _____ by men. People did _____ esteem Him.

Acts 4:13-14 *Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.*

Peter and John were considered by the religious elite to be _____ and untrained.

Col 1:21-23 *And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight — 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.*

Paul said the gospel had been preached to _____ creature under heaven.

There is no doubt that what started out as something small has turned into something great.

Matt 13:33

In Matthew 16:6-12 Jesus told his disciples to beware of the leaven of the _____.

Paul talks about evil influence when he says “a little leaven leavens the whole lump.” Leaven is invasive. God’s kingdom is also _____. It has influenced all corners of the world for over 2000 years.

The Kingdom of Heaven is Valuable

Matt 13:44-46

When one realizes how valuable being part of God’s kingdom is, he will _____ give up _____ he has to attain it.

Matt 16:24-27

If we profit the whole world, but lose our soul we have lost _____.

Matt 19:21-22

Jesus told this man what he had to do to inherit eternal life, and he _____.

Matt 19:27-30

_____ those who are willing to leave
_____ will inherit eternal life.

Phil 3:4-8 *...though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: 5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; 6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. 7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.*

Paul was willing to give up everything to gain _____.

The Day of Sorting

Matt 13:47-50

This short parable reinforces the Parable of the Tares. At the end of time the good will be gathered into vessels, and the bad will be _____ away.

Lessons to Learn

- We must continue to grow closer. We need to spend time together. The elders have broken us into groups to help us get closer. **Will you participate?**
- We must continue to serve one another. **What are you doing?**
- The elders have stressed the importance of reaching out to the lost. We need everyone to do their part. **What are you willing to do?**
- We all need to sell all that we have to buy the pearl of great price. **What will you sell?**
- If we give all we have, we will be gathered together with the Lord.