

## 16—Parables by the Sea

Matthew 13:1-58; Mark 4:1-34; Luke 8:4-18



1. What is a “parable?” Make a list of some good questions we need to ask as we study and seek to understand each parable of Jesus.

2. *The Parable of the Sower*, also called *The Parable of the Soils*, is one of the most well-known parables of Jesus. What kind of soils does the Sower come across while doing sowing his seed (Matthew 13:1-9; Mark 4:1-9; Luke 8:4-8)?

3. For what purpose does Jesus speak to His disciples while using parables (Matthew 13:10-17; Mark 4:10-13; Luke 8:9-10)? What can we learn from the teaching strategies of Jesus?

4. What is the key point of the parable of the soils (Matthew 13:18-23; Mark 4:14-20; Luke 8:11-15)? What application did this have to those Jesus was speaking? What application can we make to our personal lives as both seed-sowers and hearers as we consider this message?

5. Mark 4:26-29 contains a parable not found in the other gospels. What are some of the spiritual lessons we can learn from this short parable?

6. Matthew 13:24-43 contains the *Parable of the Tares*. What is the main point of this parable? What key lessons was this intended to teach the disciples of Jesus? What can we learn from this text to help us in our spiritual walk today?

7. *The Parable of the Mustard Seed* is found in Matthew 13:31-32 and Mark 4:30-34. What is the ultimate result of the mustard seed? What kingdom lesson did Jesus intend to teach by this parable?

8. *The Parable of the Leaven* is found in Matthew 13:33-35. What similarities does this have to the previous parable? What are the key differences?

9. *The Parable of the Hidden Treasure* is found in Matthew 13:44. The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price is found in Matthew 13:45. What do these parables have in common? How are they different? What is the main point we need to learn from them?

10. *The Parable of the Dragnet* is found in Matthew 13:47-51. What does this parable teach us about the kingdom today and the judgment to come?

11. The Parable of the Householder is the final parable of Matthew 13 (13:51-53). Who is this parable directed to and what is the main point Jesus is making? How can we learn from it?