



ASKING BETTER QUESTIONS
-
PARABLES 2 - WAITING

A thick black L-shaped frame surrounds the text. The top-left corner is a horizontal bar extending to the right, then a vertical bar extending downwards. The bottom-right corner is a horizontal bar extending to the left, then a vertical bar extending upwards.

WELCOME TO “PARABLES”

Each week we will delve into the background, imagery
and challenge of the parables of Jesus..

Seed parables


- Parable of the sower
- Parable of the wheat and weeds (tares)
- Parable of the growing seed (Mark)
- Parable of the mustard seed.





Reflection preview!

- What have I learnt about God's kingdom tonight?
- How do I feel about the idea of leaving the judgment up to God?



The problem – how to get through to people

- Brand new categories
- The kingdom is not like what you think...
- How to get the teaching of the kingdom through?



So, how to listen to a parable?

- **Ask** questions of course!
- **Ask:** What are the corresponding features talking about? (Sower, seed, pearl, banquet etc)
- **Ask:** What is Jesus wanting to teach about his kingdom that is *different* to the accepted wisdom?
- **Ask:** What would have surprised or shocked the original hearers?
- **Ask:** How might this parable be challenging me or my understanding of God's kingdom?

What do we know about seeds?

- They are small.
- There are many types of seed.
- There needs to be the right conditions in the soil.
- The plant or tree will be the same kind and produce more seeds.
- They need water and nutrients to grow.
- They take time to grow.
- Anything else?

Seed

- (1 Cor 3:6-8) I planted the **seed** in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering.
- What's important is that **God makes the seed grow**. The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work.



Think about “seed” in terms of God establishing his kingdom on earth

- How is God going to be establishing his Kingdom then?
- All at once, or gradually?
- What’s the primary method he will use?
- What kind of hit rate will he get?



Seed in the Hebrew Bible

- (Ps 126) When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.” The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.
- Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the Negeb! Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy! He who goes out weeping, bearing the **seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.**
- (Isa 5:10) Ten acres of vineyard will not produce even six gallons of wine. Ten baskets of seed **will yield only one basket of grain.**
- Thinking about the parable of the sower, what connections do you see with these passages?
- When the Lord comes, joy and blessing comes with it.



Isaiah 6



- Here I am. Send me.”And he said, “Yes, go, and say to this people, ‘Listen carefully, but do not understand. Watch closely, but learn nothing.’ Harden the hearts of these people. Plug their ears and shut their eyes. That way, they will not see with their eyes, nor hear with their ears, nor understand with their hearts and turn to me for healing.”
- Sound familiar? How would you respond if you heard this?
- Then I said, “Lord, how long will this go on?”And he replied, “Until their towns are empty, their houses are deserted, and the whole country is a wasteland; until the LORD has sent everyone away, and the entire land of Israel lies deserted. If even a tenth—a remnant—survive, it will be invaded again and burned.
- Where is this going? What is God doing?
- But as a terebinth or oak tree leaves a stump when it is cut down, so Israel’s stump will be a holy **seed**.”
- What’s coming in the future?



Parable of the weeds



- (Mt 13:24-30) He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away.
- So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’
- So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he said, No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, “Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.””



Parable of the weeds

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 - *Farmer, field, good seed, enemies, weeds, workers, harvest, harvesters, fire, barn.*
- **Ask:** What is Jesus wanting to teach about his kingdom that is *different* to the accepted wisdom?
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Wheat



Weeds
("darnel")

Parable of the weeds – Jesus' explanation

- (Mt 13:36-43) Then he **left the crowds and went into the house**. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field."
- He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels.
- Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.
- He who has ears, let him hear.



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Parable of the weeds

- Do you relate to the desire the servants had to pull up the weeds?
- If we are the servants, what is the practical application of this parable?
- What will the kingdom be like at the end of the age?





Reflection

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Next time

- Parable of the mustard seed
- Parable of the yeast