

Practical Principles from the Parables

"Recognizing the Impact of the Seed You Sow"

Matthew 13:31-35

Sermon Series Summary

Have you ever found the parables confusing or difficult to understand? If so, then you are not alone. Many people have trouble understanding these teachings but Jesus gives the answer to decode these parables and discover practical principles to live out your faith in modern times. Join us as we begin a new series that will give you new insight into practical principles of faithfulness as we study the parables found in Matthew 13.

Series Theme Passage

Matthew 13:16 (ESV) - But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear.

Main Text

Matthew 13:31-35 (ESV) –³¹ He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. ³² It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³He told them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened."

³⁴ All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable. ³⁵ This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet: "I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world."

Big Idea - Your Small Words and Works Today Move Mountains Tomorrow

Learning to S.O.W. the Right Seed

S = Sharing Simple Seeds of God Love Will Sustain and Strengthen at the Right Time

Matthew 13:31-32 (ESV) –³¹ He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. ³² It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

■ **Key Point** – The first response in learning to sow the right seed is found in the understanding of the importance of sharing the Gospel in little ways as well as big ways. The little investments of love and kindness for the glory of God will grow over time.

O = Ordinary Acts of Outreach Produce Extraordinary Eternal Impact

Matthew 13:33 (ESV) **–**³³ He told them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened."

■ **Key Point** – The second response in learning to sow the right seed is found in the understanding of your ordinary, daily ways that you share God's love. The little investments of love and kindness for the glory of God make an eternal impact.

W = Wise Christians Reveal the Truth of God's Word to a Wavering World

Matthew 13:34-35 (ESV) –³⁴ All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable. ³⁵ This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet: "I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world."

■ **Key Point** – The final response of learning to sow the right seed is found in the unwavering resolve of each Christian to continue in sharing the Gospel to a wavering world. There are many people looking for truth today but few individuals are sharing the authentic Gospel.

Memory Verse

2 Corinthians 9:10 (ESV) – He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

Challenge:

Remind yourself that your responsibility, before the Lord, is to apply the truths you have discovered in the Word of God. As you reflect on this message, answer this question,

• What are some different ways that you can sow seeds of the Gospel this week?