

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## THE PARABLES OF THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM

*“He answered and said to them, ‘Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.’” (Matthew 13:11)*

### Objectives

<i>Knowledge of God’s Will</i>	The parables in Matthew 13 are connected to the progression of the church.
<i>Knowledge of God</i>	God is all-knowing and sovereign.
<i>Good Work</i>	Treasure and live out the true gospel we have received.

### A. Understanding the Kingdom of Heaven

The kingdom of heaven is important enough that Jesus used several parables to describe it to His followers. To understand these, we must first realize that the “kingdom of heaven” does not simply refer to our home in heaven, but to the place in our hearts that belongs to God (Lk 17:21). It is the kingdom within God’s believers, which means we, His church, make up the kingdom of heaven.

### B. The Parables of the Heavenly Kingdom (Mt 13:31–35, 44–51)

All of these parables can be seen as prophecies regarding the future of the church and its people.

1. **The mustard seed:** Like a mustard seed, the church was small when it began – around 120 people – and grew extremely large even during apostolic times. However, its size placed the church in danger; as in the parable of the sower, the birds are a danger to the truth.
2. **The leaven:** False teachers constantly try to lead the church astray with the leaven of malice and wickedness. Birds are noticeable, but leaven is hidden and difficult to defend against, as proven by the corruption that spread throughout the apostolic church and changed its teachings.
3. **The hidden treasure:** The true gospel was lost, but then reemerged in the True Jesus Church. The truth of the gospel is more valuable than anything else in this world, and those who understand this are willing to give up everything for it, just like Paul (Phil 3:8).
4. **The pearl:** Unlike the man who stumbled upon the hidden treasure by accident, the merchant here represents those who actively seek out the truth and understand its value once discovered.
5. **The dragnet:** Like in the parable of the wheat and the tares, this is another reminder that when Jesus comes again, every single person will be judged. Each of us will either be gathered to God or thrown away and cast into the furnace of fire.

### Life Application

#### 1. **We must fight against false teachings (Mt 24:4–5)**

The birds and the leaven warn us of the danger of false teachers and their existence within the church. What can we do to remain vigilant and watchful against Satan’s deception?

#### 2. **We must treasure the truth (Phil 3:8)**

The man and the merchant willingly gave everything they had to obtain the hidden treasure and the pearl. How can we remind ourselves to treasure the true gospel?

#### 3. **We must be watchful to the end (Mt 24:42)**

It is easy to forget that we will receive judgment in the coming end time. Although we do not know when it will come, we must always stay prepared and constantly ask ourselves if we are ready for it. How would we live differently if we knew that Jesus Christ was coming tomorrow? How will you actively watch for the time when Jesus Christ comes again?

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## Lesson 2 Homework Assignment

### The Parables of the Heavenly Kingdom

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

Memory Verse (Matthew 13:11):

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1. What is the purpose of the mysteries that Jesus gave us regarding the kingdom of heaven?
2. What does the kingdom of heaven refer to in these parables?
3. What do the birds and the leaven represent? In what ways are they different?
4. What is the difference between the man who found the hidden treasure and the merchant who found the pearl? How did they both respond to the situation?
5. What is the key teaching in the parable of the dragnet? How does this affect our daily lives?
6. Share one way you will be actively watchful this week.