

Kingdom of Heaven week 1

Matthew 13:11-12, 16 (NLT) [Jesus] replied, “You are permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven, but others are not. To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given, and they will have an abundance of knowledge. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them... But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear.

Parable of the Farmer Scattering Seed: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Four kinds of soil:

1. The hard path
2. Rocky and shallow
3. Thorny
4. Good and fertile

Lessons from this Parable

There is a _____ implied in the four soils.

Romans 12:2 (NLT) Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Fruit looks different depending on how far down the _____ you are.

Matthew 28:19-20a (NLT) Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you.

The farmer is _____ no matter the condition of the soil.

Matthew 28:20b (NLT) “And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

The same _____ is thrown on all four kinds of soil.

2 Timothy 4:3-5 (NLT) For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will reject the truth and chase after myths. But you should keep a clear mind in every situation. Don't be afraid of suffering for the Lord. Work at telling others the Good News, and fully carry out the ministry God has given you.

Our job as Jesus followers is to _____ of our hearts, not to create a harvest.

1 Corinthians 3:6-7 (NLT) 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.

Final Thought: _____ (NLT) Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.

The Kingdom of Heaven week 1 Discussion Questions

Read Matthew 13:10-17. Why did Jesus use parables to teach spiritual truths? Quickly scan the other parables in chapter 13 (if you have time you can read them). Do these simple little stories help you understand the Kingdom of Heaven? Why or why not?

The concept of the four types of soil/hearts are represented in other scriptures as well. Read the following verses and identify which soil they describe and what it adds to this parable. 1 Corinthians 2:14, Genesis 26:12-13, 1 Timothy 6:9, John 16:33, Philippians 4:6-7. What is something from these verses that inspire you to keep journeying forward in your faith?

Look at the vision of our church; the journey. How does this apply to this parable?

Read the following passages that describe different kinds of harvest that our lives should produce; Galatians 5:16-26, James 3:14-26, 2 Timothy 4:2-5, Matthew 28:19-20. How do these passages apply to the spiritual journey? Where are you on the journey? What is your next step? What is holding you back from taking that step? Explain.

