

The Parable Of The Sower;

The Seed (*The Word*) Sown In Four Kinds Of Hearts.

"On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea. And great multitudes were gathered together to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying:

*'Behold, a sower went out to sow.
And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside;
and the birds came and devoured them.'*

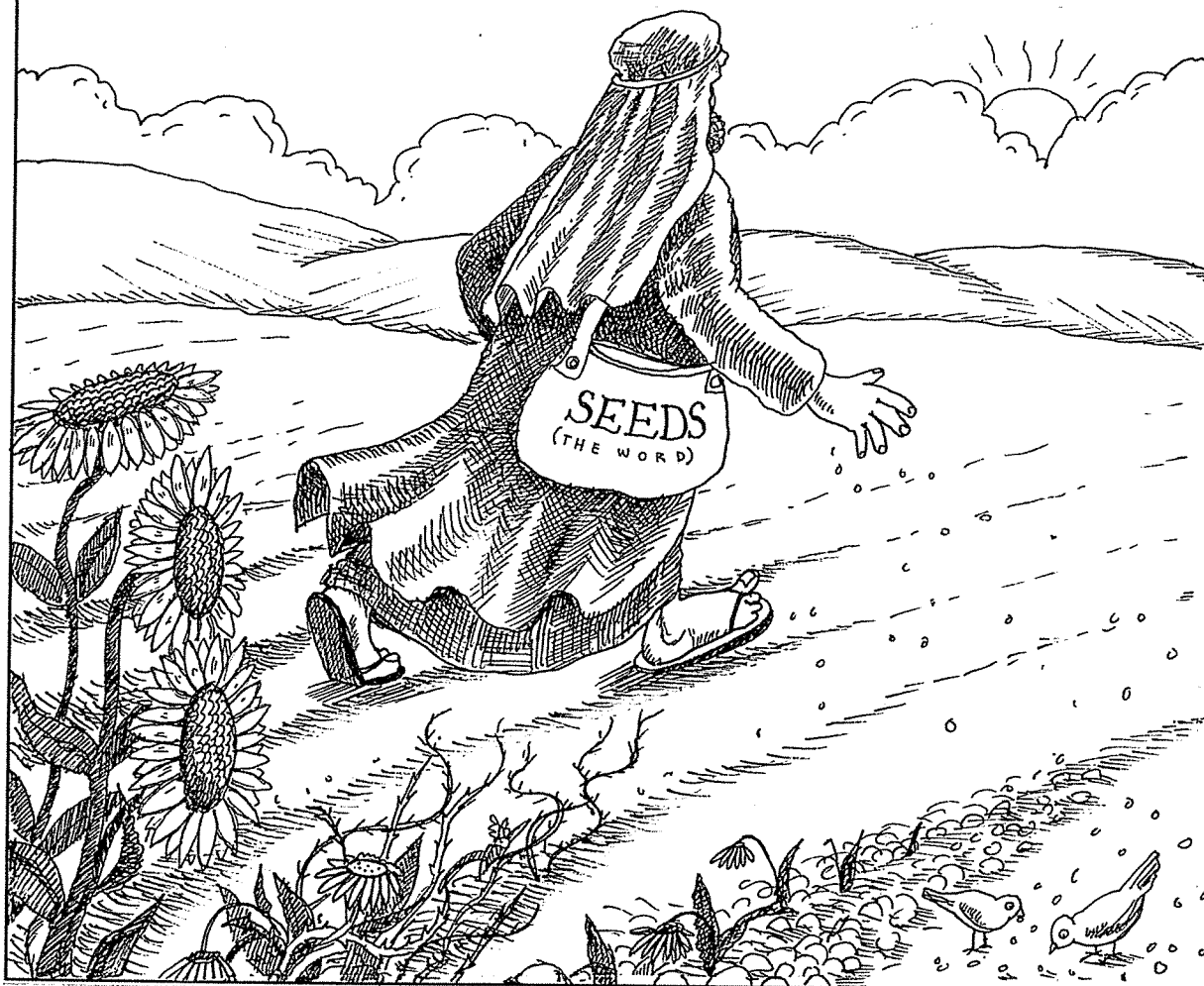
'Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away.'

'And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them.'

'But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.'

'He who has ears to hear, let him hear!'"

- Matthew 13:1-9



Our hearts are like the soil. Jesus gives us a new heart when we are born again. Unless the hardened soil (our hard, sinful heart) is replaced with softened soil (a softened, born again heart), the seed, or the Word of God, never takes root and is snatched away by the wicked one (Satan). Jesus said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." - John 3:3

The Parable of the Sower:
**The Seed (*The Word*) Sown
In Four Kinds of Hearts**
Matthew 13:1-9

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. blessed- possessing the favor of God
2. endures only for a little while- for a season, temporary
3. fallow- (Jer. 4:3; Hos. 10:12) untilled
4. hundred-fold- a number or amount a hundred times as great
5. mysteries- some sacred thing hidden or secret which is naturally unknown to human reason and is only known by the revelation of God. In Matthew 13:11, "to them it has not been given" means the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are not revealed to them since they are not related to King Jesus.
6. multitude- crowd of people
7. parable- a comparison in which the hearer has to catch the analogy in order to be instructed
8. persecution- pursuit of an enemy to injure, trouble, or distress
9. sow- to scatter or plant seed for growing
10. sower- one who sows
11. tribulation- evils by which one is afflicted or distressed by
12. wayside- highway, road, street

Discussion Questions

1. a. Read Matthew 13:1-9. What are the four kinds of soil?

b. What do the four kinds of soil represent in this parable?
2. What does the seed represent?
3. a. In the parable of the sower, did the different soils receive different seeds or did they receive the same kind of seeds?

b. What does this tell you about the Word and people's hearts? (Is. 40:8; Matt. 24:35)

Today's Memory Verse

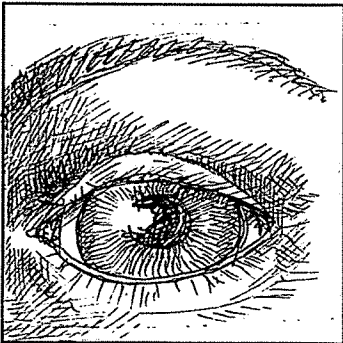
"Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord, til He comes and rains righteousness on you." Hosea 10:12 (NKJV)

He Who Has Ears To Hear,
Let Him Hear!

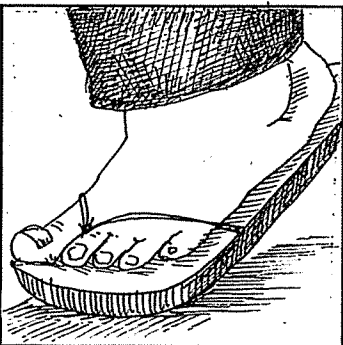
Jesus Tells Us Why He Taught In Parables.



Do you have spiritual ears?
Do you hear His Word?



Do you have spiritual eyes?
Are you born again?



Has He healed your lameness?
Are you walking with Him?

"And the disciples came and said to Him,
'Why do You speak to them in parables?'

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.

"I thank You, Father,
Lord of heaven and earth,
that You have hidden
these things from the wise
and prudent and have
revealed them to babes."
- Matthew 11:25

For whoever has, to him more will be given,
and he will have abundance;
but whoever does not have, even what
he has will be taken away from him.

"I am the true vine, and My
Father is the vinedresser.
Every branch in Me that
does not bear fruit He takes
away; and every branch
that bears fruit He prunes,
that it may bear more fruit."
- John 15:1-2

Therefore I speak to them in parables,
because seeing they do not see,
and hearing they do not hear,
nor do they understand.
And in them the prophecy of Isaiah
is fulfilled, which says:

"Give ear, O My people,
to My Law; Incline your
ears to the Words of My
mouth. I will open My
mouth in a parable; I will
utter dark sayings of old,
which we have heard and
known, and our fathers
have told us. We will not
hide them from their
children, telling to the
generation to come the
praises of the Lord, and
His strength and His
wonderful works that He
has done." - Psalm 78:1-4

'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand,
and seeing you will see and not perceive;
For the hearts of this people have grown dull.

Their ears are hard of hearing
and their eyes they have closed,
lest they should see with their eyes
and hear with their ears,

lest they should understand with their hearts
and turn, so that I should heal them."

(See Isaiah 6:9-10.)

Isaiah 35:4-6 says,
"...He will come and save
you. Then the eyes of the
blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf
shall be unstopped. Then
the lame shall leap like a
deer, and the tongue of
the dumb sing."

But blessed are your eyes for they see,
and your ears for they hear;
for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets
and righteous men desired to see what you see,
and did not see it, and to hear what you hear,
and did not hear it." - Matthew 13: 10-17

Jesus opens our
spiritual ears and eyes
by removing our sins.
First we must humble
ourselves and come
to Him. "Ask, and it
will be given to you; seek,
and you will find; knock,
and it will be opened to
you. For everyone who
asks receives, and he who
seeks finds, and to him
who knocks it will be
opened." - Matthew 7:7-8

**The Parable of the Sower:
Jesus Tells Us Why
He Taught In Parables
Matthew 13:10-17**

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. blessed- possessing the favor of God
2. endures only for a little while- for a season, temporary
3. hundred-fold- a number or amount a hundred times as great
4. mysteries- some sacred thing hidden or secret which is naturally unknown to human reason and is only known by the revelation of God. In Matthew 13:11, "to them it has not been given" means the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are not revealed to them since they are not related to King Jesus.
5. multitude- crowd of people
6. parable- a comparison in which the hearer has to catch the analogy in order to be instructed
7. persecution- pursuit of an enemy to injure, trouble, or distress
8. sow- to scatter or plant seed for growing
9. sower- one who sows
10. tribulation- evils by which one is afflicted or distressed by

Discussion Questions

1. Read Matthew 13:10-11. Why do think that Jesus spoke in parables? (Matt. 7:6; Matt. 11:25; see vocab. "mysteries")

2. a. Read Matthew 13:12. What is the most important thing to have? (John 3:3; Mark 10:26-30)

- b. If you have Jesus, what do you have to look forward to? (John 3:16; I Cor. 15:54)

- c. If you don't have Jesus, what do you have to look forward to? (Matt. 25:30; Rom. 6:23)

- d. If you don't have Jesus, does it matter what wealth and power you have on earth? Why or why not? (Matt. 6:19-21; II Peter 3:10-13)

3. Read Matthew 13:13-15. Why did they not see and hear? (Numb. 14:11; Is. 42:23-24; Is. 65:2)

4. Read Matthew 13:16-17. What did the disciples hear and see that the prophets didn't?

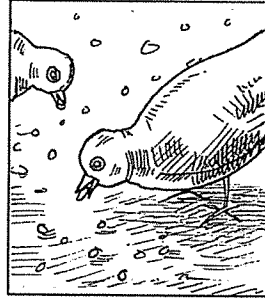
Today's Memory Verse

"Give ear, O My people, to My law; incline your ears to the words of My mouth. I will open My mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old." Psalm 78:1-2

Therefore
Hear The Parable
Of The Sower:
The Word Of God Sown
In Four Kinds Of Hearts.
Which Heart Is Yours?

The Seed (*The Word*)
Sown By The Wayside.

"Behold, a sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them." - Matthew 13:3-4



Jesus' Explanation:

"When anyone hears the Word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside."
- Matthew 13:19



**The Parable of the Sower:
The Seed (*The Word*)
Sown By The Wayside
Matthew 13:18-19**

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. blessed- possessing the favor of God
2. endures only for a little while- for a season, temporary
3. fallow- (Jer. 4:3; Hos. 10:12) untilled
4. hundred-fold- a number or amount a hundred times as great
5. mysteries- some sacred thing hidden or secret which is naturally unknown to human reason and is only known by the revelation of God. In Matthew 13:11, "to them it has not been given" means the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are not revealed to them since they are not related to King Jesus.
6. multitude- crowd of people
7. parable- a comparison in which the hearer has to catch the analogy in order to be instructed
8. persecution- pursuit of an enemy to injure, trouble, or distress
9. sow- to scatter or plant seed for growing
10. sower- one who sows
11. tribulation- evils by which one is afflicted or distressed by
12. wayside- highway, road, street

Discussion Questions

1. a. Review Matthew 13:3-4. Read Matthew 13:18-19. Who do the birds represent?
b. What kind of soil is the wayside?
c. What kind of heart might this soil represent? (Jer. 4:3; Hos. 10:12)
2. a. Who does God call to be sowers of His Word (the seed)? (Matt. 28:19-20)
b. As disciples of Jesus, how can we be sowers of His Word (the seed)? (Josh. 1:8; I Peter 3:15; II Tim. 4:3)
c. Do we always know what kind of soil (hearts) we are dealing with? Who does? (I Sam. 16:7; Ps. 44:21; Jer. 17:10)
d. We are called to share the gospel, but who is the Giver of understanding? (Ps. 119:34, 73, 103-104; Eph. 1:17-18)
e. Who is able to reveal God to the human heart? (John 16:13-14; I Cor. 2:9-16, 3:7; John 6:44)

Today's Memory Verse

"So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase."
I Corinthians 3:7

Therefore
Hear The Parable
Of The Sower:
The Word Of God Sown
In Four Kinds Of Hearts.
Which Heart Is Yours?

The Seed (The Word)
Sown On Stony Places.

"Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away." - Matthew 13:5-6



Jesus' Explanation:
"But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the Word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the Word, immediately he stumbles."
- Matthew 13:20-21



**The Parable of the Sower:
The Seed (*The Word*)
Sown On Stony Places
Matthew 13:20-21**

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. blessed- possessing the favor of God
2. endures only for a little while- for a season, temporary
3. fallow- (Jer. 4:3; Hos. 10:12) untilled
4. hundred-fold- a number or amount a hundred times as great
5. mysteries- some sacred thing hidden or secret which is naturally unknown to human reason and is only known by the revelation of God. In Matthew 13:11, "to them it has not been given" means the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are not revealed to them since they are not related to King Jesus.
6. multitude- crowd of people
7. parable- a comparison in which the hearer has to catch the analogy in order to be instructed
8. persecution- pursuit of an enemy to injure, trouble, or distress
9. sow- to scatter or plant seed for growing
10. sower- one who sows
11. tribulation- evils by which one is afflicted or distressed by
12. wayside- highway, road, street

Discussion Questions

1. Review Matthew 13:5-6. Read Matthew 13:20-21. Describe the heart that was like the soil of the stony places. (Eph. 4:14; Ps. 1:4; Is. 40:8)

2. a. As Christians, will we have tribulations? (John 16:33)

b. As believers, what should our response be to that tribulation? (Rom. 5:3; Ps. 1:3; John 15:4-6)

3. As Christians, how can we grow roots? (Josh. 1:8; Heb. 10:24-25)

Today's Memory Verse

"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God stands forever."
Isaiah 40:8 (NKJV)

Therefore
Hear The Parable
Of The Sower:
The Word Of God Sown
In Four Kinds Of Hearts.
Which Heart Is Yours?

The Seed (*The Word*)
That Fell Among Thorns.

"And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them." - Matthew 13:7



Jesus' Explanation:
"Now He who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the Word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the Word, and he becomes unfruitful."
-Matthew 13:22

I LOVED THAT MESSAGE AT CHURCH!
I WANT TO BECOME A RICH AND FAMOUS MODEL FIRST! THEN I WILL SERVE THE LORD! I KNOW HE'LL UNDERSTAND !!
I NEED TO WORK, YA KNOW!!

WHAT ABOUT JESUS?



**The Parable of the Sower:
The Seed (*The Word*)
That Fell Among Thorns
Matthew 13:22**

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. blessed- possessing the favor of God
2. endures only for a little while- for a season, temporary
3. fallow- (Jer. 4:3; Hos. 10:12) untilled
4. hundred-fold- a number or amount a hundred times as great
5. mysteries- some sacred thing hidden or secret which is naturally unknown to human reason and is only known by the revelation of God. In Matthew 13:11, "to them it has not been given" means the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are not revealed to them since they are not related to King Jesus.
6. multitude- crowd of people
7. parable- a comparison in which the hearer has to catch the analogy in order to be instructed
8. persecution- pursuit of an enemy to injure, trouble, or distress
9. sow- to scatter or plant seed for growing
10. sower- one who sows
11. tribulation- evils by which one is afflicted or distressed by
12. wayside- highway, road, street

Discussion Questions

1. a. Review Matthew 13:7. Read Matthew 13:22. Where did thorns begin? (Gen. 3:17-19)
- b. What are the cares of this world?
- c. What does God's Word tell us about the cares of this world? (I John 2:15-17; II Tim. 2:3-4)
- d. What should our cares be? (Matt. 6:33)
2. a. Read Luke 12:16-21. How was this man deceived by riches?
- b. What is the root of all evil? (I Tim. 6:9-10)
- c. Do you think that it is a sin to be rich? Why or why not?
- d. Where should we store up our treasures at? (Matt. 6:19-21)

Today's Memory Verse

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)

Therefore
Hear The Parable
Of The Sower:
The Word Of God Sown
In Four Kinds Of Hearts.
Which Heart Is Yours?

This Heart Is
A Softened
Born Again Heart!

The Seed (*The Word*)
That Fell On Good Ground.

*"But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop:
some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.
He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"* -Matthew 13:8-9



Jesus' Explanation:
*"But he who received
seed on the good ground
is he who hears the Word
and understands it,
who indeed bears fruit
and produces: some a
hundredfold, some sixty,
some thirty."*
- Matthew 13:23

MOM! DID YOU KNOW
THE BIBLE SAYS THAT
WE CAN HAVE EVER-
LASTING LIFE THROUGH
JESUS CHRIST? DO
YOU KNOW THAT GOD
LOVES YOU EVEN WHEN
YOU SIN? YOU NEED
TO BE BORN AGAIN!
DO YOU WANT TO?

WHAT DO
I NEED TO DO
TO BE SAVED?
ARE YOU SURE
ABOUT WHAT
YOU HEARD?



Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the Word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the Vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me and My Words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples." - John 15:1-8

"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. These things I command you, that you love one another."
-John 15:16-17

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.
Against such there is no law. - Galatians 5:22-23*

**The Parable of the Sower:
The Seed (*The Word*)
That Fell On Good Ground
Matthew 13:23**

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. abide- (John 15:5) to remain in or with someone, to be and remain united in heart, mind, and will
2. blessed- possessing the favor of God
3. endures only for a little while- for a season, temporary
4. hundred-fold- a number or amount a hundred times as great
5. mysteries- some sacred thing hidden or secret which is naturally unknown to human reason and is only known by the revelation of God. In Matthew 13:11, "to them it has not been given" means the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are not revealed to them since they are not related to King Jesus.
6. multitude- crowd of people
7. parable- a comparison in which the hearer has to catch the analogy in order to be instructed
8. persecution- pursuit of an enemy to injure, trouble, or distress
9. sow- to scatter or plant seed for growing
10. sower- one who sows
11. tribulation- evils by which one is afflicted or distressed by

Discussion Questions

1. a. Review Matthew 8-9. Read Matthew 13:23. How does this soil (heart) receive the Seed (Word)? (Rom. 10:17)
b. How can the heart understand? (Luke 24:45; Eph. 1:17-18)
2. a. What is the fruit of the Spirit? (Gal. 5:22-23)
b. How can we bear fruit for the Lord? (John 15:1-8)
c. When we are abiding in Jesus, and doing good works for Him, what else happens? (Matt. 5:16)
3. a. What is the "Gospel"? (Luke 24:45-47; I Cor. 15:3-4)
b. As Christians, What has God commanded us to do? (Matt. 28:18-20)
c. If we do this, what are we doing? (Matt. 13:3)

Today's Memory Verse

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing." John 15:5 (NKJV)

The Parable Of The Wheat And The Tares.

Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?'"

He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn."'" - Matthew 13:24-30



The Parable Of The Wheat And The Tares Matthew 13:24-30

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. parable- a comparison in which the hearer has to catch the analogy in order to be instructed
2. sickle- (Rev. 14:14) a small hand tool used for cutting stalks of grain
3. sow- to scatter or plant seed for growing
4. tares- a plant, in appearance not unlike corn or wheat, having at first the same sort of stalk and the same greenness, but not bringing forth any worthwhile fruit

Discussion Questions

1. What is this parable about? (Matt. 13:24)
2. a. Who sowed the tares among the wheat? (Matt. 13:25)

b. Who is our enemy? (I Peter 5:8)
3. a. When did the enemy sow the tares? (Matt. 13:26; I Thes. 5:1-11)

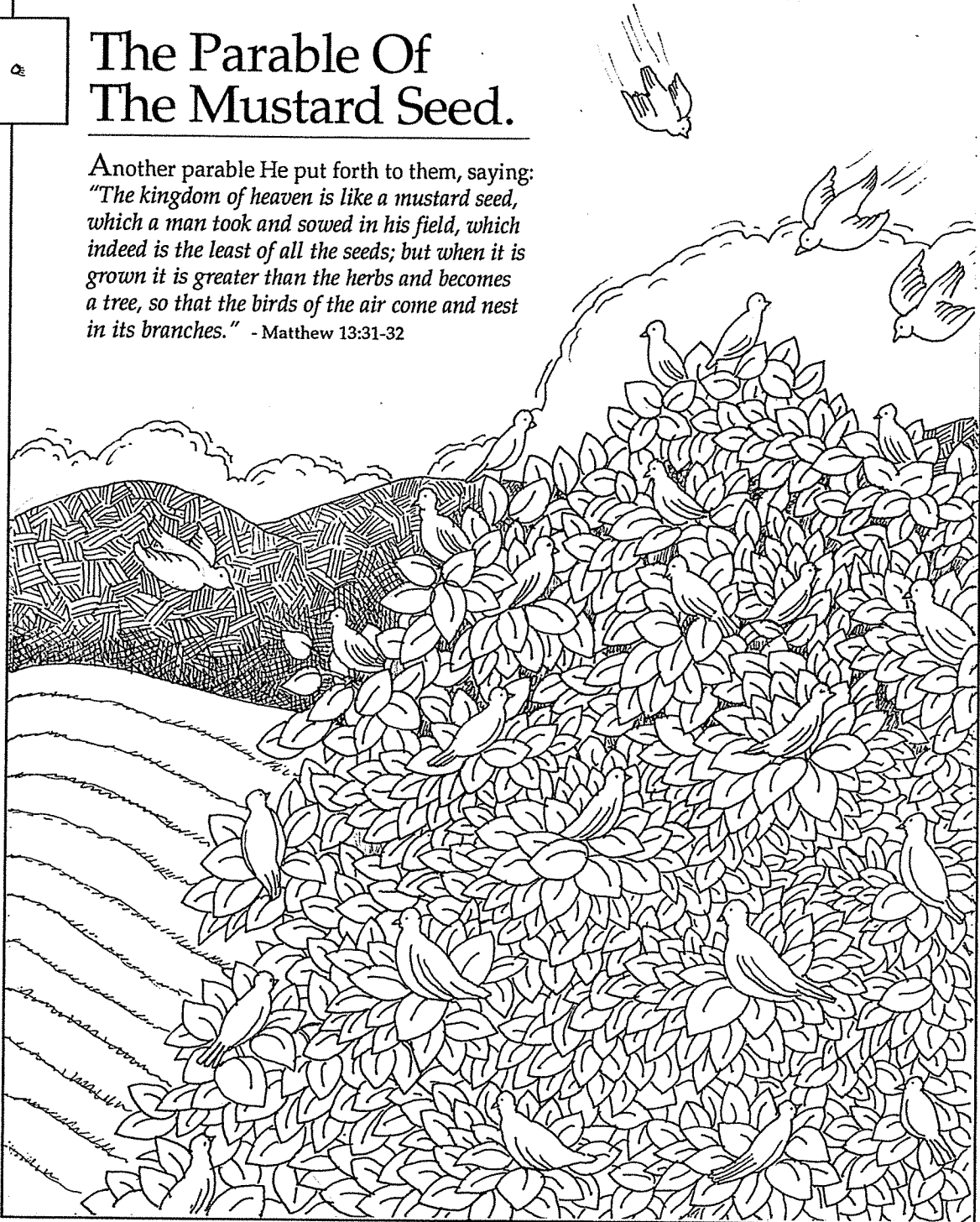
b. When did the tares appear? (Matt. 13:26)
4. What happened to the tares at the time of harvest? What happened to the wheat? (Matt. 13:10,12,30; Rev. 14:14-16)

Today's Memory Verse

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." I Peter 5:8 (NKJV)

The Parable Of The Mustard Seed.

Another parable He put forth to them, saying: *"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches."* - Matthew 13:31-32



Jesus is teaching about the kingdom of heaven. The kingdom of heaven began in the hearts of a few men, the disciples. After Jesus rose to be with the Father, and the Holy Spirit was given to believers and the kingdom spread, and many people came to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. The tiny mustard seed kingdom grew into a huge tree! As you can see, Christianity is on every street corner! But only the Lord knows who are His. His sheep hear His voice. Do you have ears to hear Him? Are you born again?

Birds in nature are not evil! But they symbolized the wicked one (the devil) in the previous parable (Matthew 13:19). These birds nest in the huge tree of Christianity! The wicked one has invaded Christianity! Only God can tell for sure who is truly of the kingdom of heaven. There are many false doctrines, false brethren, and false teachers among those who name the Name of Jesus Christ. The Lord will show us what He's going to do about this problem in His explanation of the parable of the wheat and tares. (See Matthew 13:36-43.)

The Parable Of The Mustard Seed

Matthew 13:31-32

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. mustard seed- the mustard seed was the smallest seed known in Jesus' day, but would grow wild along roadsides and in fields, reaching a height of about 15 feet
2. parable- a comparison in which the hearer has to catch the analogy in order to be instructed
3. sow- to scatter or plant seed for growing

Discussion Questions

1. Read Matthew 13:31-32. What is this parable about? (Matt. 13:31)
2. a. How is the mustard seed like the kingdom of heaven? (Acts 2:47)

b. How can you enter the kingdom of God? (John 3:3, 16)

c. Where is the kingdom of God? (Luke 17:20-21)
3. a. What do the birds sometimes represent in the Bible? (Matt. 13:3-4, 19; Rev. 18:2)

b. What do you think Jesus is warning the Church about? (Matt. 7:15-20; Matt. 13-30)

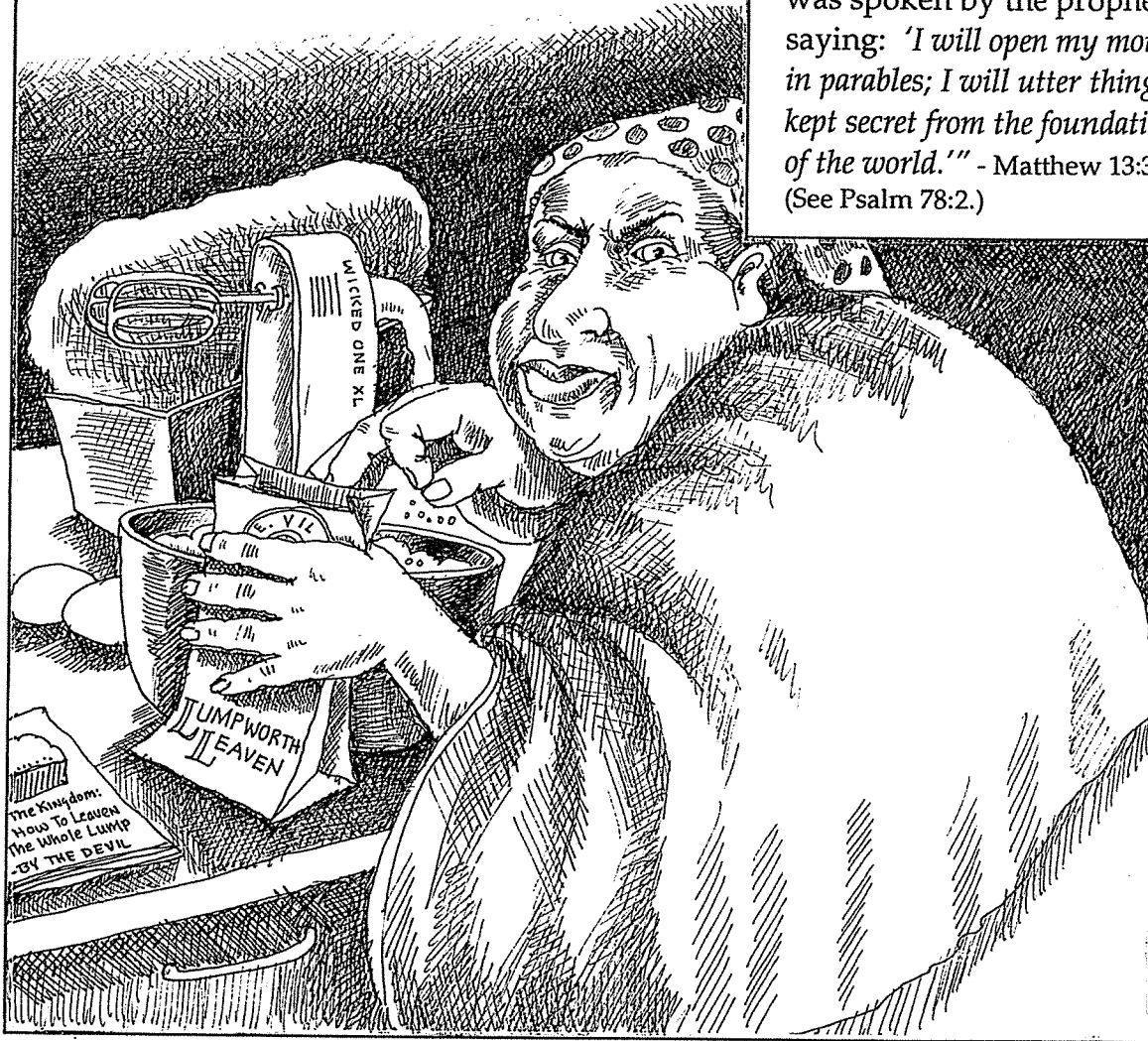
Today's Memory Verse

"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves." Matthew 7:15 (NKJV)

The Parable Of The Leaven.

Another parable He spoke to them:
"The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened." - Matthew 13:33

"All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: 'I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world.'" - Matthew 13:34-35 (See Psalm 78:2.)



"Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth." - 1 Corinthians 5:6-8

Leaven is a symbol of sin. Leavening is like yeast. If you make homemade bread you'll use a little yeast so that the bread rises. Just a tiny pinch of yeast will make the whole loaf rise in no time! If you don't deal with sin and the flesh, a small problem will grow into a huge thing. In the book of Hebrews, we are warned, "...looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;" - Hebrews 12:15. Sin in the church, or sin in our lives is like leavening. In a short time, it will leaven the whole lump.



We need to be a new lump! Are you born again?
Only God can make us new!

The Parable Of The Leaven

Matthew 13:33-35

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. leaven- a substance used to produce fermentation in dough and make it rise. Leaven referred to in Scripture represents sin (I Cor. 5:6-8), false doctrine (Gal. 5:7-9), and hypocrisy (Luke 12:1).
2. meal- flour
3. parable- a comparison in which the hearer has to catch the analogy in order to be instructed

Discussion Questions

1. What is like leaven? (Matt. 13:33)
2. a. In Scripture, what does leaven represent? (see vocabulary)

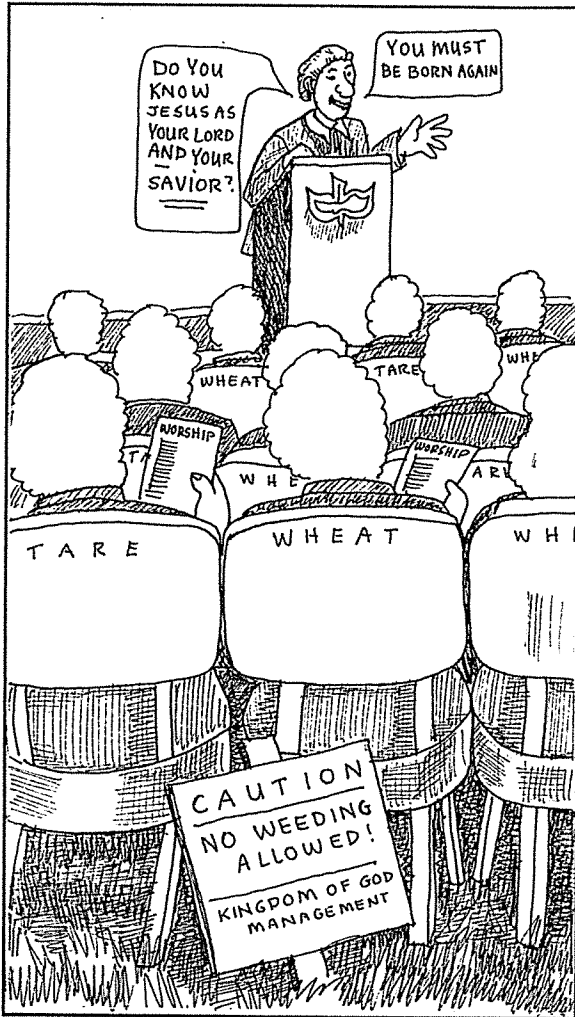
b. What do you think is meant by Galatians 5:9?

c. What do you think I Corinthians 5:7 means when it says to get rid of the old leaven so we can be a new lump? (John 3:3; Gal. 5:16-26)
3. a. What do you think Jesus is warning the Church about? (Matt. 7:15-20)

b. What previous parables are warning us about the same thing? Explain. (Matt. 13:24-30; Matt. 13:31-32)

Today's Memory Verse

"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit." Matthew 7:15-17 (NKJV)



Jesus Explains The Parable Of The Wheat And The Tares.

Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field." He answered and said to them: "He Who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" - Matthew 13:36-43

The Sower of the good seed is the Son of Man - Jesus.

The field is the world.

The good seeds are the sons of the kingdom. Born again people.

The tares are the sons of the wicked one, the devil.

The enemy who sowed the tares is the devil.

The harvest is the end of the age.

The reapers are the angels.

Like salt from a salt shaker, Jesus has sprinkled His people all over the world so we can be lights shining in the darkness. Maybe you're one of His wheat plants in the field of this world. There are tares planted around you, but you do not know who they are! The Lord knows who are His because they hear His voice and follow Him (John 10:4 & 5). If we are born again, we are the sheep of His pasture and we know His voice. The tares, or unbelieving in the world, don't hear His voice.

Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a Shepherd divides His sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left." - Matthew 25:31-33
(Also read Matthew 25:34-46 for more information.)



He will judge nations and individuals. He will divide the wheat from the tares, and the sheep from the goats at the end of the age. Until then, be salt and light! Love others and show them Jesus! Don't try to weed out the tares because you might uproot some of God's wheat!

Jesus Explains The Parable Of The Wheat And The Tares

Matthew 13:36-43

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. parable- a comparison in which the hearer has to catch the analogy in order to be instructed
2. reaper- one who cuts or harvests grain from a field
3. Son of Man- referring to Jesus, fully God, but in human form
4. sow- to scatter or plant seed for growing
5. tares- a plant, in appearance not unlike corn or wheat, having at first the same sort of stalk and the same greenness, but not bringing forth any worthwhile fruit

Discussion Questions

1. Read Matthew 13:36. Why did Jesus send the multitude away? (Matt. 13:11)
2. a. Read Matthew 13:37. Who sowed the good seed?
b. Who is the Son of Man? (refer to vocab)
3. a. Read Matthew 13:38. What is the field?
b. Who are the good seeds?
c. Who are the sons of the kingdom?
d. Who are the tares?
4. a. Read Matthew 13:39. Who is the enemy?
b. When is the harvest?
c. who are the reapers?
5. a. Read Matthew 13:40-43. Who will be cast into the fire? (Matt. 13:41)
b. Who are those who practice lawlessness? (Matt. 7:21-23)
c. How long will the punishment last? (Matt. 25:46)
d. Where will the righteous (those who know Jesus and He knows them) go? (John 10:25-30)

Today's Memory Verse

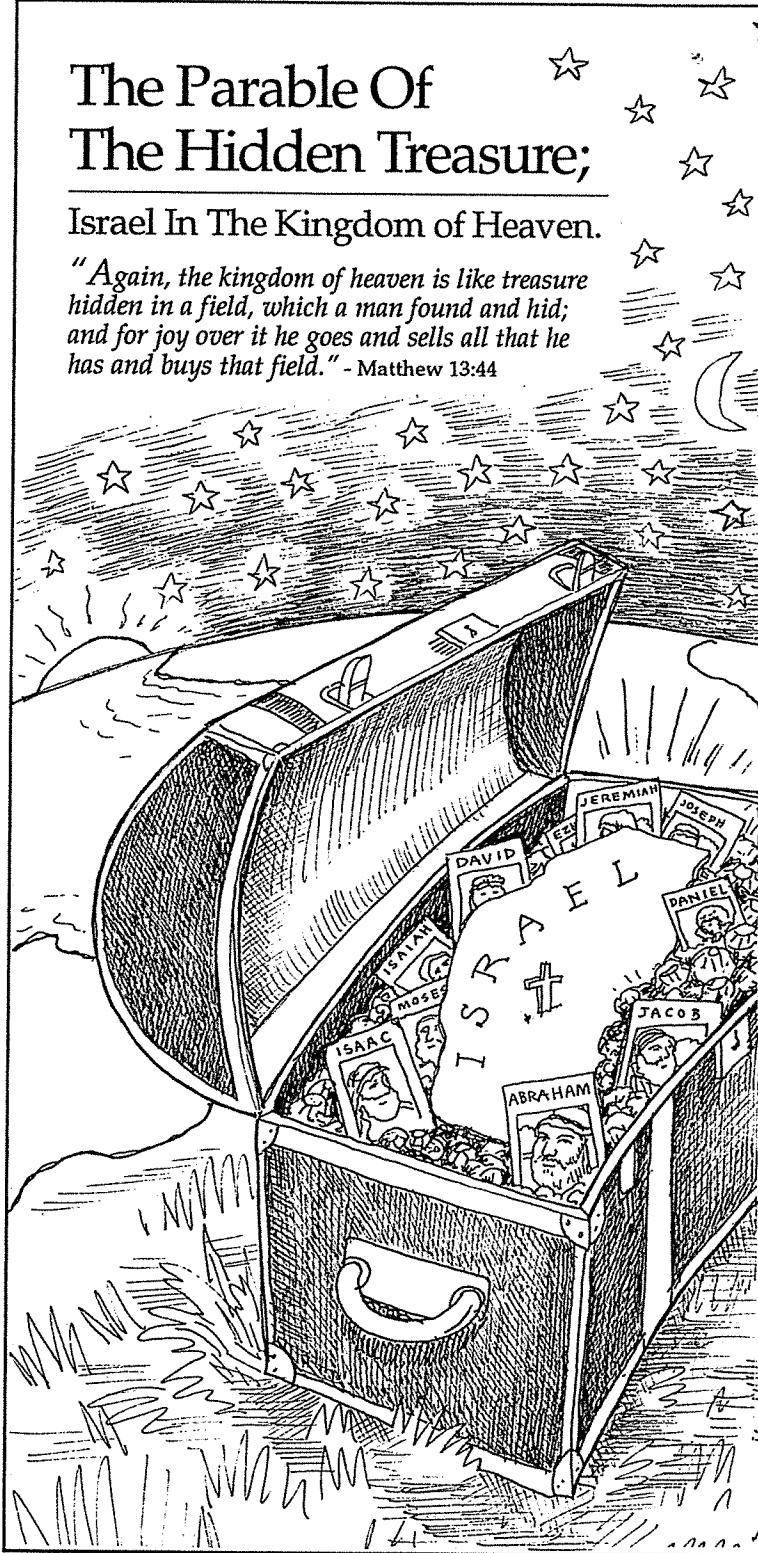
"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand."

John 10:27-28 (NKJV)

The Parable Of The Hidden Treasure;

Israel In The Kingdom of Heaven.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." - Matthew 13:44



The world is the field (Matthew 13:38).
Israel is the treasure hidden in the field;
"Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice
and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special
treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is
Mine." - Exodus 19:5


"For the Lord has chosen Jacob for Himself,
Israel for His special treasure." - Psalm 135:4

Jesus is the Man Who for joy, bought the field
for the treasure hidden in it. He gave up
everything He had to buy that field. Because
of His great love, He laid down His life
as a ransom to buy it. He gave up heaven to
redeem Israel and anyone who was willing to
come to Him. He paid with His Own Blood.

"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ
Jesus, Who, being in the form of God, did not
consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made
Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bond-
servant, and coming in the likeness of men. And
being found in appearance as a man, He humbled
Himself and became obedient to the point of death,
even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has
highly exalted Him and given Him the Name which
is above every name, that at the Name of Jesus every
knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on
earth, and of those under the earth, and that every
tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to
the glory of God the Father."
- Philippians 2:5-11

"He was in the world, and the world was made
through Him, and the world did not know Him.
He came to His own, and His own did not
receive Him." - John 1:10-11

Salvation is to the Jew first, and then to the
Gentiles. Israel rejected the Lord, so He went to
the Gentiles, but He has not rejected Israel.
Jesus came and died for Israel, too.

 Though Israel rejected their Messiah, God has not forgotten them!

Jeremiah 31:35-37 says, "Thus says the Lord, Who gives the sun for a light by day, the ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, Who disturbs the sea, and its waves roar (The Lord of hosts is His Name): If those ordinances depart from before Me, says the Lord, then the seed of Israel shall also cease from being a nation before Me forever. Thus says the Lord: If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, says the Lord." We remember God's promise to Abraham's descendants. (Genesis 15:5)

The Parable Of The Hidden Treasure Matthew 13:44

Discussion Questions

1. Read Matthew 13:44. What (who) is God's treasure? (Ps. 135:4)
2. Israel as a nation has rejected Jesus, their Messiah (John 1:10-11). Has God rejected Israel? (Jer. 31:35-37)

**Note:* But remember that the individual people of Israel have to make the same choice we have to make - to choose Jesus or reject Jesus - to go to heaven or hell. (see Daniel 12:1-3). There are Jews today who have accepted Jesus. We call them Messianic Jews.

3. Are God's promises ever taken away? (I Kings 8:56; Rom. 4:21)
4. a. For now, Israel has been blinded (like a treasure that has been hidden). Why? (Luke 19:41-42; John 1:10-11)

b. For how long? (Rom. 11:25)
5. Will Israel as a nation be saved? (Rom. 11:26; Rev. 7:4-8)

In Summary:

- God promised Abraham that all the nations would be blessed through him. (Gen. 12:2-3)
- The Messiah, Jesus, came through the lineage of Abraham. (Matt. 1:1)
- Jesus taught the Gospel to the Jews first, then to the Gentiles. (Rom. 1:16)
- Upon Israel's rejection of Jesus (Luke 19:41-42; John 1:10-11), spiritual blindness came upon them until the fullness of the Gentiles comes in, in other words, until the complete number of Gentiles who will come to Christ have been saved. (Rom. 11:20)
- After the rapture, God will use Israel again to proclaim the Gospel. (Rev. 7:4-8)

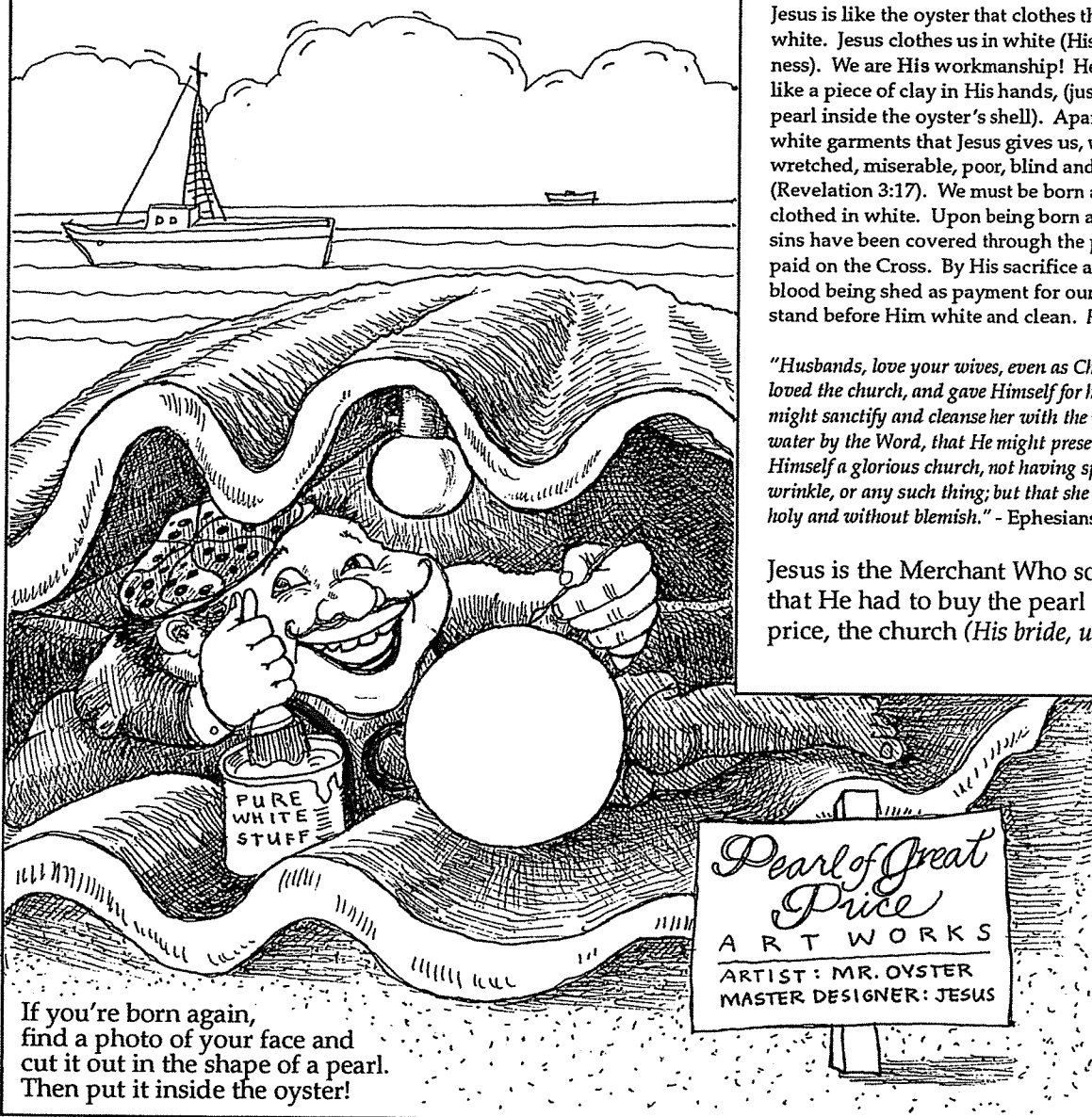
Today's Memory Verse

"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek."
Romans 1:16 (NKJV)

The Parable Of The Pearl Of Great Price.

The Church In The Kingdom of Heaven.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it." - Matthew 13:45-46



If you're born again,
find a photo of your face and
cut it out in the shape of a pearl.
Then put it inside the oyster!

The pearl is the church; the bride of Christ. Pearls are formed by oysters when an irritant (such as sand) gets into their shell. Once the irritation has started the oyster tries to soften the irritation by coating the irritant with its own bodily substances. The pearl is not chisled or formed by chipping away (like diamonds and rubies), but coated by layers from the oyster. It is gently and gracefully clothed in white, and unblemished by the works of man. (We are saved by God's grace, not by works.)

Jesus is like the oyster that clothes the pearl in white. Jesus clothes us in white (His righteousness). We are His workmanship! He molds us like a piece of clay in His hands, (just like the pearl inside the oyster's shell). Apart from the white garments that Jesus gives us, we remain wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked (Revelation 3:17). We must be born again to be clothed in white. Upon being born again, our sins have been covered through the price He paid on the Cross. By His sacrifice and by His blood being shed as payment for our sins, we stand before Him white and clean. *Forgiven!*

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the Word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that she should be holy and without blemish." - Ephesians 5:25-27

Jesus is the Merchant Who sold all that He had to buy the pearl of great price, the church (His bride, us!).

"Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright (white in KJV), for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints." - Revelation 19:7-8
(Our righteousness is in Jesus Christ! We have none apart from Him.)

The Parable of The Pearl of Great Price

Matthew 13:45-46

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. merchant-one who trades with foreign countries by sea or land on a large scale, a wholesale dealer (In this parable, the merchant is symbolic of Jesus Christ.)
2. pearl-(see front of handout) used symbolically in this parable to represent the Church, the Bride of Christ

Discussion Questions

1. What is this parable about? (Matt. 13:45)
2. a. In this parable who is the merchant? (See vocabulary and front of handout.)

b. Who is the pearl? (See vocabulary and front of handout.)
3. a. In this parable, what did the pearl cost? (Matt. 13:46)

b. Jesus is our merchant. What was the cost of the pearl (the Church) He sought? (Acts 20:28)
4. a. We are the pearl, who owns us? Why? (I Cor. 6:19-20)

b. If we belong to Jesus, how should it affect our choices in life?

c. As humans, we always want to have our way. But, in Jesus' example, who should we always allow to have His way and not our own? (Matt 26:39)

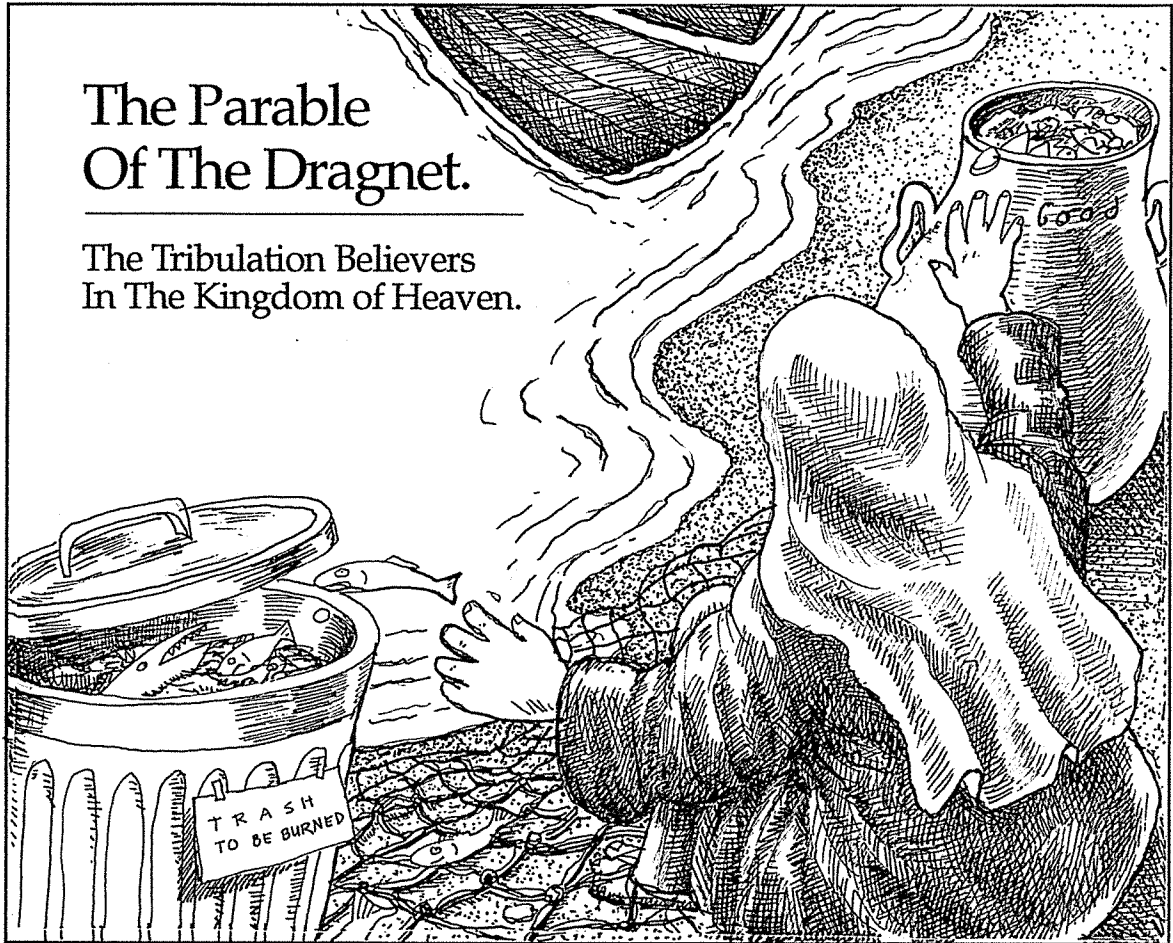
d. When we do God's will above our own will, what does this show? (Matt. 7:21; Luke 18:29-30)

Today's Memory Verse

"Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." I Corinthians 6:19-20 (NKJV)

The Parable Of The Dragnet.

The Tribulation Believers
In The Kingdom of Heaven.



"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

Jesus said to them,
"Have you understood all these things?"
They said to Him, "Yes, Lord."
Then He said to them, "Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old."
- Matthew 13:47-52

What things new and old would a person need to understand the kingdom of heaven?
The New and Old Testaments!
The Whole Counsel of God.

This is a parable similar to the wheat and the tares. At the end of the age, the Lord will send out His angels to separate the wheat from the tares, the sheep from the goats, and the good from the bad, the believers from the unbelievers.

"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides His sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'" - Matthew 25:31-34

"Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels!'"
- Matthew 25:41

The Parable Of The Dragnet

Matthew 13:47-52

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. dragnet- a long-drawn net or sweep-net, the ends of which were spread by boats so as to cover a large portion of open sea, then drawn together, and all which they contain is taken
2. gnashing- to grind, grate, crunch the teeth together with the person being in a fit of envy, rage, pain, and so forth (Acts 7:54)
3. householder- the master of the house, the head of the family
4. parable- a comparison in which the hearer has to catch the analogy in order to be instructed
5. scribe- one who would explain the Law in schools and synagogues
6. vessels- containers which could be used for carrying things such as fish

Discussion Questions

1. Read Matthew 13:47. What is this parable about?

2. a. Read Matthew 13:47-50. How is this parable similar to the parable of the wheat and the tares? (Matt. 13:24-30)

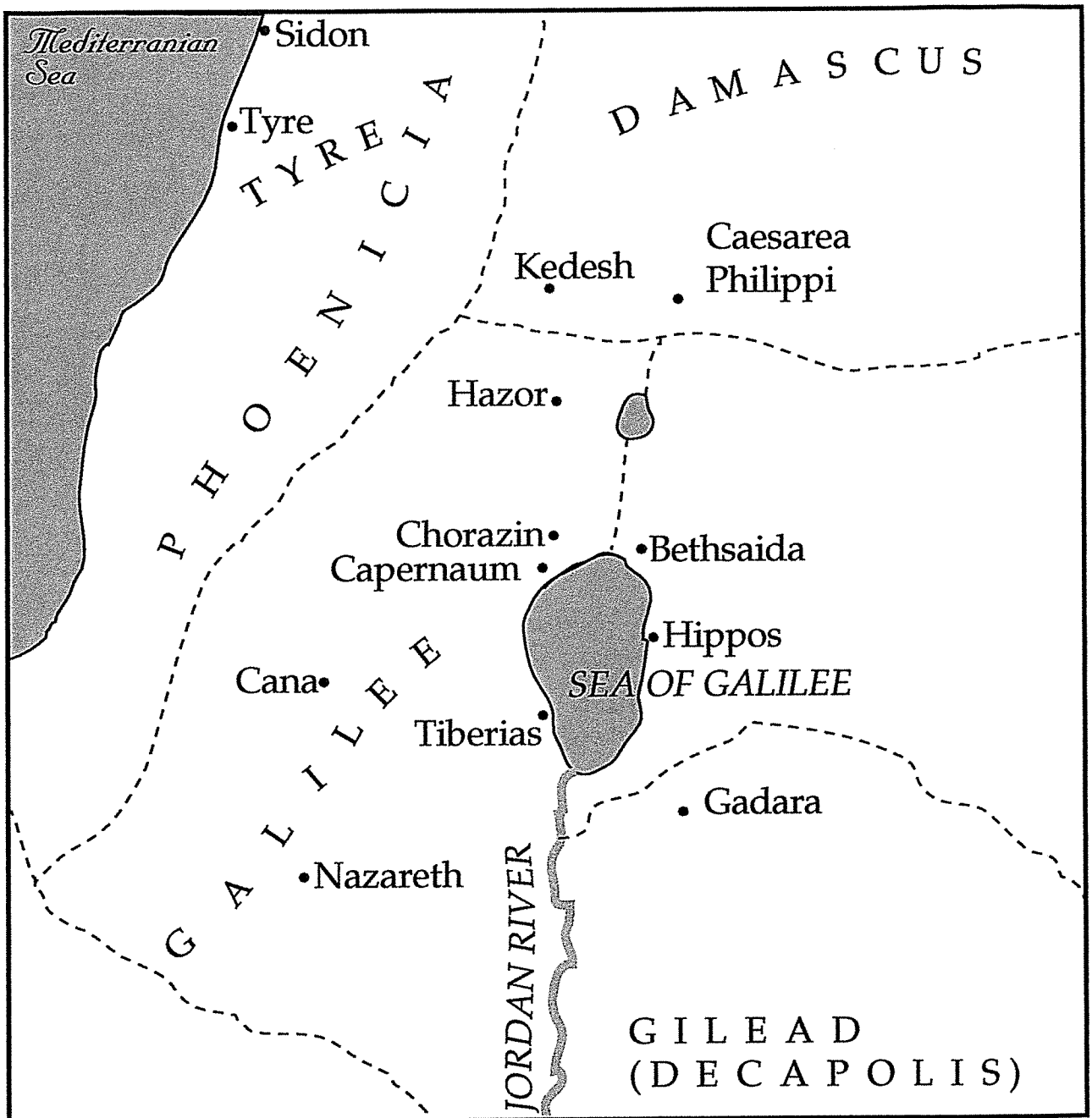
- b. There are other parables with similarities. Why do you think this is so? What point or points is Jesus trying to make?

3. Read Matthew 13:51-52. What things, new and old, would a person need to understand the Kingdom of Heaven? (Prov. 19:21; Luke 24:27, 44-47)

Today's Memory Verse

"There are many plans in a man's heart, nevertheless the Lord's counsel - that will stand." Proverbs 19:21 (NKJV)

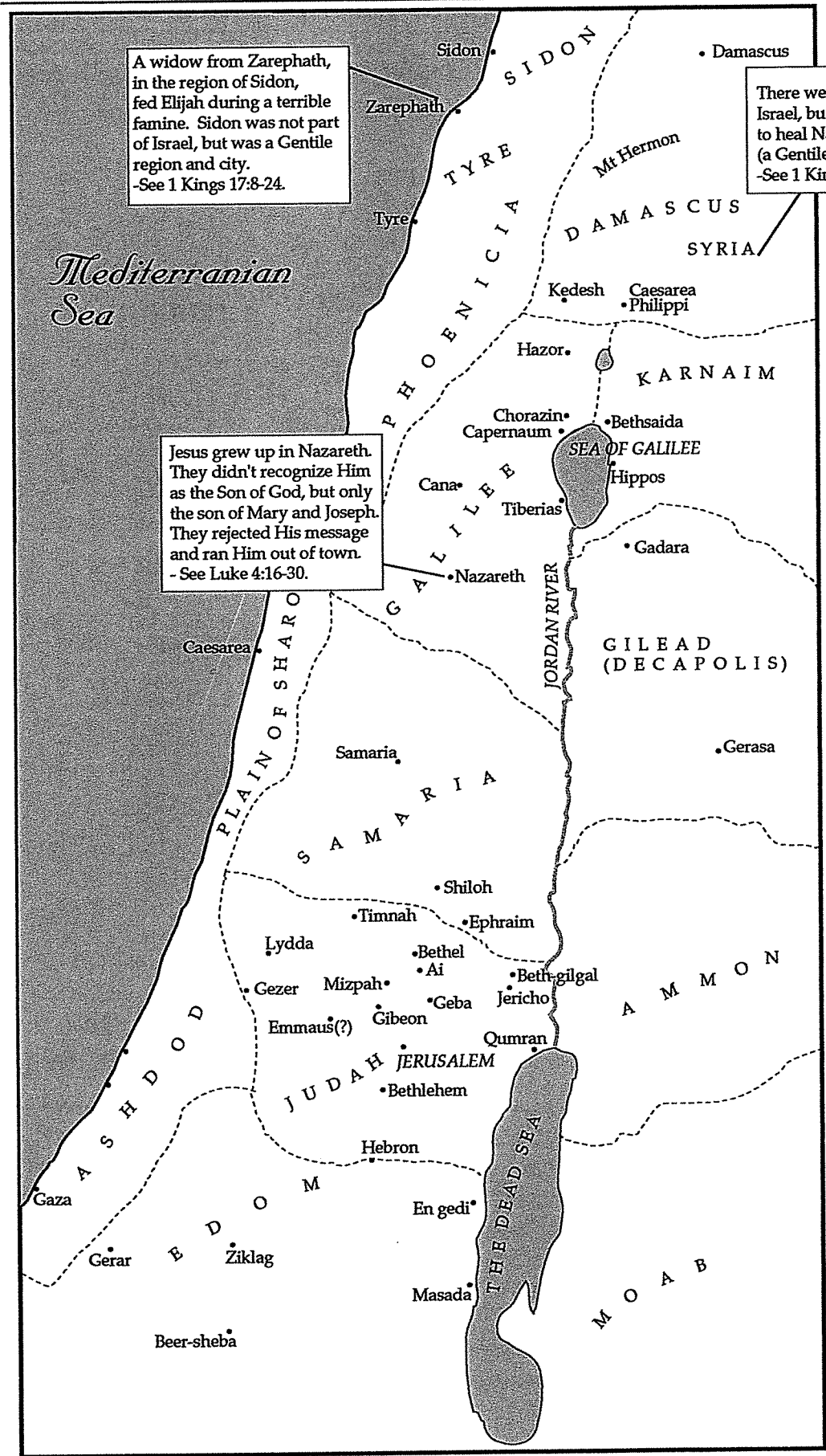
Apply Within for Kids- Matthew Chapters 13:53-58



Jesus left the area near the Sea of Galilee and went back to Nazareth, His home town. Matthew tells us that He taught them in their own synagogue. They were amazed at His teachings because they knew His mother, sisters, and brothers. They had seen Him grow up. They did not accept Him. Luke 4:16-30, gives us a more hostile picture of this event. They rose up and thrust Him out of the city. Not only that, they tried to murder Him by pushing Him off a cliff! Jesus said that no prophet is accepted in his own country.

Shortly after this event, Jesus heard about the death of John the Baptist (Matthew 14:1-12). Then Jesus departed to a deserted place, and then back to the Sea of Galilee (Matthew 14:22-33).

Apply Within for Kids- Matthew 13:53-58



A widow from Zarephath, in the region of Sidon, fed Elijah during a terrible famine. Sidon was not part of Israel, but was a Gentile region and city.
-See 1 Kings 17:8-24.

There were many lepers in Israel, but the Lord chose to heal Naaman the Syrian, (a Gentile).
-See 1 Kings 5:1-27

Jesus grew up in Nazareth. They didn't recognize Him as the Son of God, but only the son of Mary and Joseph. They rejected His message and ran Him out of town.
- See Luke 4:16-30.

Jesus Is Rejected In Nazareth; His Hometown.

Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished these parables, that He departed from there. When He had come to His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, *"Where did this Man get this wisdom and these mighty works? Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas? And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this Man get all these things?"* So they were offended at Him. But Jesus said to them, *"A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house."*

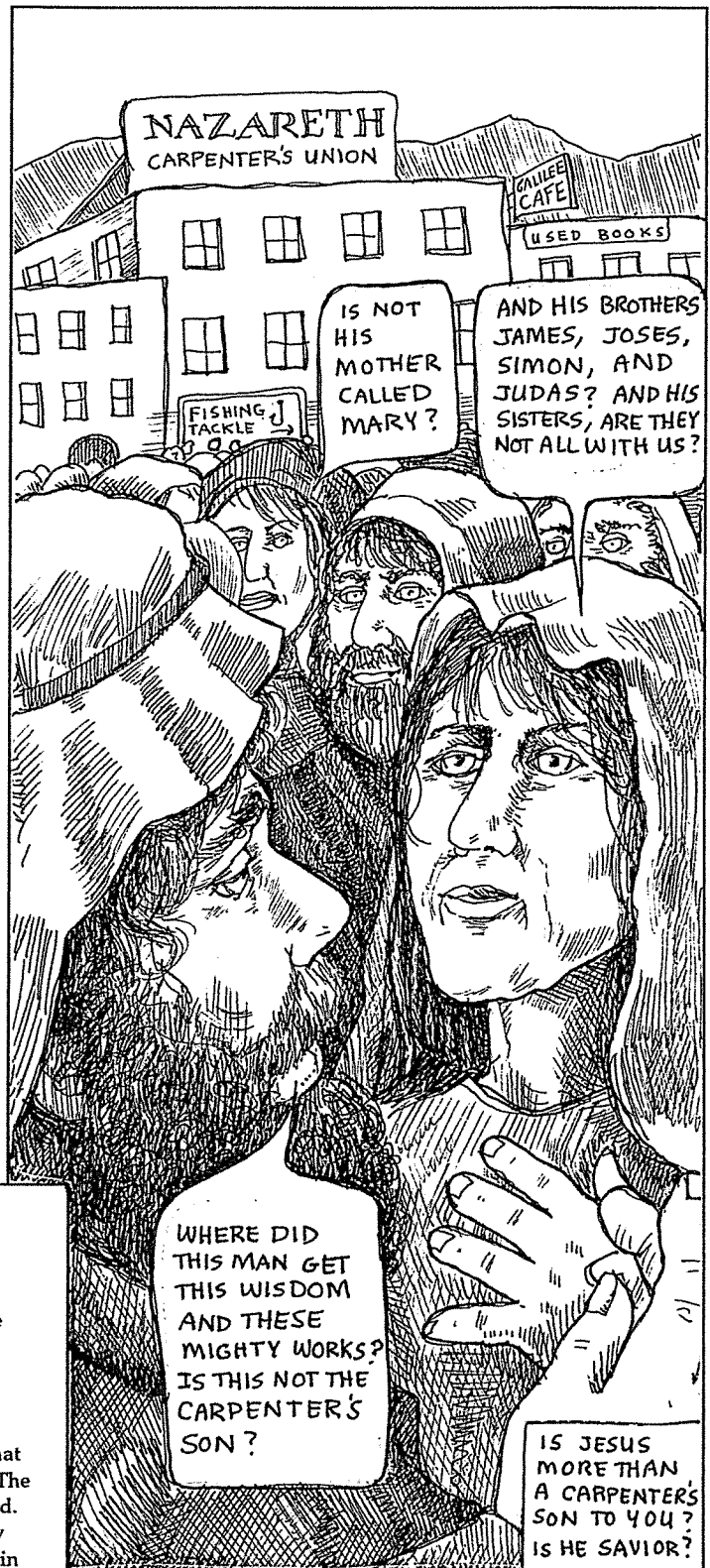
Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief. - Matthew 13:53-58

So often we'll believe if we see it, but Jesus told Thomas, *"Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."* -John 20:29

The world says, "seeing is believing."
We should say, "believing is seeing."

Jesus wasn't accepted in His own country, or hometown. They knew Him as the son of the carpenter, and the illegitimate son of Mary. Her reputation was tarnished in their eyes because she was with child before her marriage to Joseph. Of course we know that Jesus is the Son of God, and Mary was with Child by the Holy Spirit.

The unbelievers in His hometown didn't believe that He was the Son of God, but rather, Joseph's sSon! The unbelievers today don't believe He's the Son of God. They are astonished at His great teachings but they reject Him as God! Many "scholars" don't believe in the virgin birth (*Matthew 1:23 & Isaiah 7:14*) of Jesus Christ. But we know it is the truth because the Bible tells us it's true! We need to believe the Word of God rather than "scholars."



Jesus had brothers and sisters! These Bible verses teach that Mary had many children. Remember that these brothers and sisters are Jesus' half-brothers and sisters and Joseph was Jesus' step-father. God is His Father.

Jesus Is Rejected In Nazareth: His Hometown Matthew 13:53-58

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. astonished-amazed
2. offended-to be offended by someone, to take offense at his character, words, conduct, so as to reject him.
3. parable-a comparison in which the hearer has to catch the analogy in order to be instructed
4. synagogue-a local place where Jews could gather together for the reading and explanation of the Jewish sacred Scriptures and for prayer

Discussion Questions

1. Read Matthew 13:53-58 and Luke 4:16-30. Luke 4:16-30 gives us more details about this event in Nazareth. According to Luke 4:17-19, in the synagogue, on the Sabbath, Jesus was handed Scripture to read. It was Isaiah 61:1-2, which was a prophecy concerning Jesus' ministry. What seven things does it say about Jesus and His ministry?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.
 - g.

(Jesus did not read, "And the day of vengeance of our God;" because that was not His ministry at the time, but it will be at His Second Coming.)

2. What was the response to His gracious message that day? (Luke 4:22)

Note: After Jesus read the prophecy in Isaiah 61:1-2, concerning Himself, you would think that they would recognize Him as their Messiah. News had spread everywhere about what He had done in the region of Galilee, in towns such as Capernaum (Luke 4:23). The people of Nazareth only saw Him as the son of Mary and Joseph. People of other towns did not know Him or His mother, brothers and sisters, so they were able to see Him as the Son of God, and they glorified Him (Luke 4:15).

3. Jesus is called a "Rock of offense, and a stumbling block" in the New Testament (Romans 9:30-33). As long as Jesus had a gracious message, the people of Nazareth loved Him and marveled. But right after His gracious message, he told them the truth about the spiritual state of Israel. Jesus mentioned that there were many widows in Israel during a famine in Elijah's day, but the Lord chose a Gentile woman from Sidon to help Elijah. He then said there were many lepers in Israel during Elisha's day, but only Naaman the Syrian (a Gentile) was healed. What was their response? (Luke 4:28-29)

Note: Remember that Jesus is a "Rock of offense" and the Gospel message is foolishness to those who are perishing. There will always be two responses to Jesus Christ and the Gospel. They will love you, the messenger, or they will hate you. If they hate you, know that they hated Jesus first (John 15:18).

Today's Memory Verse

"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek." Romans 1:16 (NKJV)