

FBC POWELL, 4-27-08 PM
"THE PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM-PART ONE"
MATTHEW 13:1-23
(#51 in Series, "Verse by Verse through Matthew")

Matthew 4:17 (NKJV) "From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'"

Zechariah 12:10 (NKJV) "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for *his* only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn."

Romans 11:26-27 (NKJV) "And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: '*The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.*'"

John 1:11 (NKJV) "He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him."

I. The Purpose of Parables (vv. 10-17)

A. To Reveal Divine Sovereignty (v. 11)

1 Corinthians 1:30a (HCSB) "But from Him you are in Christ Jesus..."

*'While all our hearts and all our songs join to admire the feast,
Each of us cries with thankful tongue, "Lord, why was I a guest?
Why was I made to hear your voice, and enter while there's room?
When thousands make a wretched choice, and rather starve than come?'*

—Isaac Watts (1725-1807)

Matthew 11:25 (NKJV) "At that time Jesus answered and said, '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.'"

B. To Reveal Human Responsibility (vv. 12-15)

Romans 1:21-22 (NKJV) "Because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools."

"When you receive God's word and fail to act on it, you gradually build calluses on your heart, you gradually get cataracts on your eyes, and you gradually lose your hearing. The Jewish people who lived during the time of Jesus were exposed to the most dynamic teacher who ever lived. They themselves said, 'No man ever spoke like this man!' (John 7:46). They saw Him do miracles, they heard others testify as to who He was, and they had the Old Testament Scriptures to see that He had fulfilled the Messianic prophecies. But they refused to believe, so the truth was withdrawn."

—David Jeremiah

C. To Reveal God's Graciousness (vv. 16-17)

II. The Parable of the Soils (vv. 3b-9; 18)

A. The Hard Soil (vv. 3b-4; 18-19)

2 Corinthians 4:4 (NKJV) "Whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them."

B. The Shallow Soil (vv. 5-6; 20-21)

"At first they promise well, but later prove very disappointing. What we have here is lack of depth. The emotions have been moved, but the conscience has not been searched; there is a natural 'joy' but no deep conviction or true repentance. When a divine work of grace is wrought in a soul, the first effects of the Word upon it are not to produce peace and joy, but contrition, humility, and sorrow."

—Arthur Pink

1 Peter 5:10 (NKJV) "But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you."

C. The Crowded Soil (vv. 7, 22)

1. The Cares of This World

2. The Deceitfulness of Riches

D. The Good Soil (vv. 8-9; 23)