

ST. MATTHEW

The Gospel according to

3

OPENING WORSHIP

To begin your Bible study, read together **Isaiah 6:9-13**. This is the Old Testament prophecy that foretells Jesus' teaching in parables.

INTRODUCTION

What effect does Jesus have on people? It really comes down to only two responses: people will either love him or they will despise him. The same is true for the message of Jesus, the gospel of free forgiveness through Jesus' blood and merit. It will either draw them to Christ, or it will drive them away. It will not leave people on the fence.

THE MESSAGE OF THE MASTER

Read **Matthew 13:1-23**

What is a parable?

What is the purpose of a parable? (v. 11-15)

How do parables illustrate the powerful truth that only the Holy Spirit can open a person's eyes to believe and understand the truth?

Consider: Have you ever explained God's plan of salvation to someone and told them that Jesus is their Savior, and the person simply was not able to grasp what you were saying. The person just didn't get it. How is such an experience parallel to Jesus' teaching in parables?

Review the parable of the sower and the seed. What does the seed represent?

Describe each place where the seed landed, and the result that came from it. Describe the significance of each.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Each parable has a single main point, also known as the *tertium* of the parable. We might view it as the "moral of the story." What is the point of the parable of the sower and the seed?

Read **Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**. Identify what is represented by each element in the parable:

The sower of good seed:

The field:

The good seed:

The weeds:

The sower of the weeds:

The harvest:

The harvesters:

What is the point of the parable of the weeds?

Read Matthew 13:31-35. What is the point of the parable of the mustard seed?

What is the point of the parable of the yeast?

Read Matthew 13:44-46. What is the point of the parable of both the parable of hidden treasure and the pearl of great price?

Read Matthew 13:47-52. What is the point of the parable of the net?

Read Matthew 13:53-58.

What problem did Jesus run into in his home town?

Why is the maxim "A prophet is without honor in his home town" still true today?

VERSE TO REMEMBER

Matthew 13:35 *"I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world."*

For next time read Matthew chapters 8-9.