



“Go make disciples...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Mt 28:19-20)

Word Wednesday Lesson 26 – Parables III - Matthew 13:44-53, Mark 4:33-3

“Those who have internalized God’s will, who recognize Jesus as the fulfillment of the Law, who recognize how he has *both upped the ante* in terms of commitment and also *provided a greater power for obedience* with his permanently indwelling Spirit, these people will **ASK how much fruit they can produce** by fully yielding to Christ. They will **NOT WORRY about the weeds**—the evil people around them—but happily set out to **BE A POSITIVE MODEL like the wheat**. They will **trust in God’s ability to DO GREAT THINGS with small resources**, as with the mustard seed and the leaven. They will **GIVE UP WHATEVER IT TAKES to acquire the kingdom**, as in the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price, realizing, as in the parable of the net, that the **ETERNAL DESTINY of billions of people hangs in the balance.**” Craig L. Blomberg (emphasis added)

Walking in His Dust: Talmidim have a _____ Focus “...I have suffered the _____ of all things, and count them mere _____, so that I may _____” (Philippians 3:8).

Memory Verse #26: “So it will be at the end of the age: the angels will come forth and _____ the _____ from among the _____” (Matthew 13:49).

Lesson notes & questions:

Lesson Reflections (*review before Apply nights*):

- What is at least one new thing I learned about loving God or my neighbor?
- Which topics would I like to know more about or need clarification?
- How does the Holy Spirit want me to apply the lesson’s Scripture to my discipleship?



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APPLY!

- Share any “Lesson Reflections” with the group. Recite this lesson’s memory verse and discuss what it means to you.
- **Treasure in the Field & Pearl of Great Value: Matthew 13:44-46**
 - When you came to faith in Jesus, were you seeking Him like the pearl merchant, or did you stumble upon Him unsuspecting? Briefly share with the group how you came to faith.
 - **Read Mark 10:21-23.** Hypothetically, if you were told to sell everything to prove you were a Christian, would you do so joyfully, like the man who found the treasure, or would you be sad, like the rich young ruler? Is there anything you need to release interest in your life because it interferes with your relationship with Jesus?
 - Why do you think Jesus left so many parables uninterpreted? Were the disciples honest when they said they understood all (verse 51)?
- **Dragnet: Matthew 13:47-50**
 - In what ways is this parable similar to the Wheat and the Tares? What are some differences?
 - Why does Matthew’s gospel stress the fiery destruction of the unrighteous?
 - How should knowing that Hell is a real place change how we view and treat unbelievers?
- **The Old and the New: Matthew 13:51-52**
 - What do you think Jesus meant by “old” and “new,” and how does your answer affect your discipleship?
- **Parables Review**
 - Which Parable from Matthew 13 is your favorite? How has this parable made a difference in your life?
 - Why does Jesus often tell stories instead of using plain talk? What is it about stories that make them so powerful?
 - How can we incorporate stories into our evangelism instead of trying to lecture someone into the kingdom?
 - Read and react to the summary quote on page 1. What are some actions you will take in your life as a result of studying the Kingdom Parables?
- **Spend the last five minutes in prayer pairs**
 - Praise for answered prayers, growth, and how God is working in your life
 - Petitions for specific challenges and intercessions for others