

September 6, 2020  
Christ Chapel Of Bandera  
Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

Not needed to follow this writing/lesson is a referenced Study Guide. An attempt has been made where anybody with a Bible will find easy reading.

Sunday Sept. 6, 2020. The Gospel Project; Adult Daily Discipleship Guide ESV; Volume 9, Number 1; Fall2020; Jesus Tells the Kingdom Parables.

Opening Joke:

Why are chefs so harsh? They're always beating eggs.

Opening Prayer:

*In class:* Ask an attendee to open with a word of prayer.

*On WEB site:* May the Lord God Almighty look down on our plight and have mercy on us. Help us repent of our sinful ways. The world would like to suck Christians back into oblivion. May the rod and staff of the Good Shepherd bring Christians comfort in obedience. Through Jesus Christ Christians pray. Amen.

The Lesson:

The Study Guide on page 11 in the *Session in a Sentence* section reads, "Jesus used parables to teach what the kingdom of heaven will be like while we wait for Christ's return and His full reign in the world".

Questions for thought:

What is a parable?

What are the advantages of teaching in parables?

Is there a particular reason for teaching about heaven in parables?

On page 17 in the first sentence the Study Guide says, "Jesus said He used parables just as much for obscuring as for unveiling; as much for concealing as for revealing".

Using the Bible translation of your choice read Mat 13:10-17.

Questions for thought:

What is a disciple?

Does a person have to be a disciple to "know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven"?

Does verse 12, "For whoever has, to him more shall be given, and he will have an abundance, but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him", indicate that God will purposefully withhold certain knowledge from unbelievers?

If so, why withhold certain knowledge from anyone?

Mat 13:15 ends, (God speaking), "Otherwise they would see with their eyes, hear with their ears, and understand with their heart and return, and I would heal them". Why would God not want them to "understand with their heart and return"?

*Continued questions for thought:*

Return to what?

Why would God not want anyone to be healed?

Will unbeliever ever know the joy of heaven?

Does anyone alive today fully understand the joys of heaven?

The New International Version of the Bible 1 Cor 2:9 in part says, “As it is written, no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived of what God has prepared for those that love Him”.

Mat 13:17 says, “For truly 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”.

*Questions for thought:*

What things did the disciples see and hear that prophets and righteous men did not?

When Jesus walked the earth, what did disciples do to deserve being saved from the wrath of God?

Today, what do Christians do to deserve being saved from the wrath of God?

Mat 13:17 indicates that “righteous men” failed to see and hear what the disciples did. Is it possible for a truly righteous man fail to find Jesus during his own lifetime?

Who decides who is saved and who is unsaved?

How is the word of God spread?

Using the Bible translation of your choice read Mat 13:1-9.

Jesus later explains this parable.

Using the Bible translation of your choice read Mat 13:18-23.

*Questions for thought:*

If someone rejects the good word of Jesus Christ, can he or she accept it later on in life, if they desire?

How or by whom is the word of Jesus Christ sown?

Can one person see into another person’s heart, can one person know another person’s motives?

Can God see into a person’s heart and know that person’s motives?

Considering how or by whom the word of God is spread, and that one person cannot see into another person’s heart, how should Christian decide who to evangelize and who not to evangelize?

The Study Guide says in part on page 12, the last paragraph, “The seed sown is the word about the kingdom, or we could say, the gospel. A person’s response to the gospel depends on the nature of the soil, or the state of his or her heart. The human sower has no way of knowing which hearts will be receptive and which ones won’t. So the sowing of the seed – the preaching and sharing of the gospel of Jesus Christ – must be done

anywhere and everywhere because the responsibility for the growth is not our own but God's”.

Using the Bible translation of your choice read Mat 13:24-30.

*Questions for thought:*

Can God use an unbeliever to do His work?

Can an unbeliever somehow lead another to Christ?

Can a believer always tell when his words have no affect at all?

Can an unbeliever remember the words of a believer years later, only then leading the unbeliever to Christ?

Will a believer always know that his words have a positive affect on an unbeliever?

Could such cases be the reason God allows the unsaved and the saved to co-exist on earth?

Could it be that a believer should never give up on an unbeliever until the unbeliever dies or the presence of the unbeliever starts to damage the believer's own relationship with God?

Using the Bible translation of your choice read Mat 13:31-33.

The Study Guide on page 13, the last complete paragraph says, “A small mustard seed becomes the biggest tree; a little leaven affects the whole batch of flour. These parables illustrate that the kingdom's growth will not only be unlikely but all encompassing. The gospel of Jesus' cross and resurrection will be the down payment, as it were, for the coming of the new heavens and new earth. What Christ began in His first coming He will consummate in His second with the kingdom of God in its fullness”.

On page 14, the last complete paragraph the Study Guide says, “Jesus Himself embodied the point of these parables, not in searching for the kingdom but in bringing the kingdom to us. He gave up *everything* because the kingdom of heaven is worth it. He knew His kingdom must come through His making atonement for sins and being resurrected for eternal life. Therefore, ushering in the kingdom of God was worth Jesus giving up His very life. Because of this, then, the kingdom of heaven is worth our lives as well”.

Also, on page 18, in the last complete paragraph the Study Guide says, “The truth for today is that Christ plans to redeem His creation. He can (and will) take what is ordinary and use it for His own glory. Just as He Himself was born into a poor, ordinary family that had to lay Him in a feeding trough after His birth, Jesus is still using ordinary, unassuming people to spread His kingdom throughout the world. What remains for us, then, is that we do not become distracted by the ordinariness and routines of life so that we do not drift into unbelief”.

We all drift. Every once in a while we all need encouragement to keep our eye on the prize, to be with God forever in heaven.

The New International Version of the Bible Psalms 27:4 reads,  
“One thing I ask of the Lord,  
This is what I seek,  
That I may dwell in the house of the Lord,  
All the days of my life,  
To gaze upon the beauty of the Lord,  
And to seek Him in His temple”.

We now have the opportunity to go next door together,  
To encourage the drifting together,  
To seek the Lord together,  
To worship the Lord together.

Let us do so with hearts looking to our future.

Thank you for your time.

Joe Huth