

Lesson from Jesus About Sharing the Gospel



- Does the thought of sharing the Gospel scare you?

Chapter 13 is about the advancement of Christ's Kingdom. Jesus used seven parables to teach important lessons to his disciples. A parable is a *story that illustrated* spiritual truth. What is meant by the Kingdom of Heaven? The *Application Study Bible* explains: "The Kingdom of Heaven is not a geographic location but a spiritual realm where God rules and where we share in his eternal life. We join that Kingdom when we trust in Christ as Savior." (13:24ff). For our purposes, we will refer to the advancement of the Kingdom of Heaven as **the advancement of the Gospel**.

Central Lesson:

God has called us to live out our mission and advance the Gospel.

1. Parable of the Farmer Scattering Seed (13:1-9, 18-23). - **Don't underestimate the RECEPTIVITY of people to the gospel.**

*"23 The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God's word and produce a harvest of **thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!**" (13:23 NLT)*

Many people will reject the gospel for various reasons, but there are many who will receive the gospel. Those who receive the gospel will be fruitful for Christ at various and amazing levels, "...**thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times....**"

2. Parable of the Wheat and Weeds (13:24-30, 36-43). - **Don't underestimate the threat of COUNTERFEIT spirituality and the infiltration of a FALSE gospel.**

*"24 Here is another story Jesus told: 'The Kingdom of Heaven is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field. 25 But that night as the workers slept, **his enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat, then slipped away.** 26 When the crop began to grow and produce grain, **the weeds also grew.**'" (13:24-25 NLT)*

The devil seeks to infiltrate the work of God with spiritual counterfeits and a corrupted gospel. The devil also uses cults, false religions, and fanatical movements to distract people from the true Gospel. According to Jesus, we can't always weed out the fakes. We must keep proclaiming the truth and doing the work of God and leave the results and the eventual weeding out to Him.

3. Parable of the Mustard Seed (13:31-32). - **Don't underestimate the GROWTH potential of the gospel.**

*"31 Here is another illustration Jesus used: 'The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed planted in a field. 32 It is **the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of garden plants; it grows into a tree, and birds come and make nests in its branches.**'" (13:31-32 NLT)*

The mustard seed was the smallest of the various seeds that were planted by a farmer. Jesus used it to illustrate that his Kingdom has a small beginning but will grow and produce a large harvest. Small becomes big with God. The *Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary* stated, "Jesus tells the parable of the

Mustard Seed to illustrate how **outwardly, the kingdom expands from an insignificant beginning to an extravagant end.**" (p. 182).

4. Parable of the Yeast (13:33-35). - **Don't underestimate the PENETRATION potential of the gospel.**

*"33 Jesus also used this illustration: 'The Kingdom of Heaven is like the yeast a woman used in making bread. Even though she **put only a little yeast in three measures of flour, it permeated every part of the dough.**'" (13:33 NLT)*

In the Bible, yeast illustrates both bad and good. Here it has a good meaning. Yeast appears to be a small insignificant ingredient. However, it spreads throughout bread dough. Jesus illustrated that his Kingdom may look insignificant and begin small, but it will grow, spread throughout the world, and make a large impact on the world.

The *Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary* stated, "There is another side to the advance of God's kingdom: **it not only expands outwardly, but inwardly, the kingdom permeates every facet of our lives and every corner of the earth.**" "On a personal level, the kingdom starts off as a seed in your heart, and slowly works its way through your thoughts, beliefs, affections, motives, and actions. It then works through you into others' lives and through them into still others' lives. In this way, just as we have seen in the other parables, the point Jesus makes here is that the kingdom of heaven slowly advances throughout the world." (p. 182).

5. Parable of the Hidden Treasure (13:44).

6. Parable of the Pearl (13:45-46). - **Don't underestimate the VALUE of the gospel to the human soul.**

*"44 The Kingdom of Heaven is like **a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field. In his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field.** 45 Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant on the lookout for choice **pearls.** 46 When he discovered a pearl of great value, he **sold everything he owned and bought it!**" (13:44-46 NLT)*

Both the hidden treasure and the pearl **illustrate the same truth**. The Kingdom of Heaven is the most valuable thing we can possess. The *Life Application Study Bible* explains: "The Kingdom of Heaven is more valuable than anything else we can have, and a person must be willing to give up everything to obtain it..." (13:45-46).

7. Parable of the Fishing Net (13:47-52). - **Don't underestimate the reality of the coming JUDGMENT of those who reject the Gospel.**

*"47 Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a fishing net that was thrown into the water and **caught fish of every kind.** 48 When the net was full, they dragged it up onto the shore, sat down, and **sorted the good fish into crates, but threw the bad ones away.**" (13:47-48 NLT)*

There will be many people who have been caught in the net of the Gospel but do not accept it. Their sins are not forgiven. Their hearts are not changed. Their lives are not made righteous. They will be separated from the righteous and punished (13:49-50).

Central Lesson:

God has called us to live out our mission and advance the Gospel.

- ▶ Accept Christ as your Savior.
- ▶ As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ.
- ▶ Invite someone to next Sunday's study.
- ▶ Attend a small group.
- ▶ Read the Bible this week & journal meaningful verses.
- ▶ Pray for friends that need Jesus.