

Bible Study, Matthew, Week 5

Day: 1

Read Matthew 13: 1-23

1. Can you formulate the message of this parable to you personally?
2. Do you think there is more than one message for each of us in this parable?
3. Are we the ones that hear the word?
4. Are we also the ones sowing?
5. What do you think it says to us?
6. Can we be both?

Day: 2

Read Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

1. Does it also feel as if the powers of darkness are more successful than the children of God?
2. Do you think the seed in the parable is the children of God?
3. Who is doing the sowing?
4. Whose children are compared to the weed?
5. When do you think the harvest time will come?
6. Who is going to gather the harvest?
7. What is going to happen to the weeds?
8. Do you think everyone is involved in building the kingdom of God?
9. Do you think we have to die like the seed to become fruitful?
10. Why do we have to persevere in spite of stumbling blocks?

Day: 3

Read: Matthew 13: 31-34

1. Do you sometimes wish the good in our society would triumph over the bad?
2. What do you think these two parables mean concerning the beginning of the Kingdom of God?
3. The small seed becomes a tree and a little yeast grows and makes all the dough rise, do you think it says something of the work of the Holy Spirit?
4. It is true that yeast is sometimes used as something sinful in the Bible, but it is also used as the good work of the Holy Spirit as is the case here.
5. Do you think we have to be tools of the Holy Spirit to make the happiness and the wonder of the Kingdom to break through in this world?

Day: 4

Read: Matthew 13: 44-50

1. Do you think everyone finds God in the same way or does everyone's journey differ?
2. Can we say that we are all gathered in different ways?

3. Does everyone have to come to a decision in faith at one point in their lives?
4. In these parables what does the pearl and the good fish stand for?
5. Can it be that the fish nets show us that not all people gathered by the gospel are true and faithful?
6. What happens to the bad ones?
7. Should we think that because the nets are full we should stop fishing?
8. What is the warning in this for us?

Day: 5

Read: Matthew 13: 51-52

1. Do you find that we also say eyes God so often while we understand so little about God's Kingdom?
2. Do you think Jesus is trying to teach His disciples that knowing more also brings more responsibility?
3. We must not keep the treasure of God for our own benefit only, we have to share it with other people that also long for it.
4. Do you think we should only share the old well know things or the new treasure like the house owner in the parable?
5. Do you think we each have unique testimonies and unique opportunities to use?
6. What are we doing with it?

Day: 6

Read: Matthew 13: 53-58

1. Have you noticed that we also sometimes react to the Word in the same way as the residents of Nazareth?
2. Do you also feel that we sometimes listen in awe to a message that does not demand anything of us, but when it comes too close for comfort we reject it?
3. In those days, the reading for the Sabbath was planned long ahead of time. So, when Jesus took the reading He read from Isaiah 61: 1-2 and said that, that prophesy we fulfilled on that day because He was anointed for it by the Holy Spirit and that impressed His listeners. (Luke 4: 22)
4. Why do you think they did not really believe in Him?
5. Could it be that they did not want to accept that they had to go to Jesus for their salvation?
6. Why do you think He did so little there?
7. Could it be that the only ones He healed were those that came to Him with a childlike faith?
8. How are we supposed to come to Jesus?

Day: 7

Read: Matthew 14: 1-12 And 16: 1-12

1. Do you think that guilty feelings can make the gospel sound too good to be true sometimes?

2. In verse 2 Herod's guilty feelings made him believe that Jesus was John that has come back from the death. Do you think that our biggest threats also sometimes come from within ourselves and the "rotten" desires of our hearts?
3. The Pharisees were well known for their self-righteousness while the Herodians believed in self-realization without any moral constraints. Do you think it is all these desires of the heart that Jesus calls the "bad" yeast we have to guard against?
4. What is the "bad" yeast in your religion?
5. How can you guard against it?