

## SERMON NOTES: January 18, 2025

### PARABLES: The Method of Messiah

Matthew 13:1-23

#### I. His Method - 13:1-9

#### II. His Motive - 13:10-17

And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying,  
*“Behold, the sower went out to sow;”*

#### III. His Meaning - 13:18-23

“But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. <sup>17</sup>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.””

## Life Group Study Questions

### **PARABLES: The Method of Messiah**

Matthew 13:1-23

1. How do you usually respond when things do not turn out as you anticipated? How does Christ's response to Israel's rejection make you thankful?

2. In your own words, what is a parable? Why do you think Jesus chose this method to teach spiritual truth?

3. What new insight did you gain from the parable of the Sower that you had not noticed before? How did this help you better understand the deeper message Christ was communicating?

4. One purpose of the parables was to reveal truth to those who had been chosen by God for salvation (13:10-11). Since understanding does not happen apart from God's Work, how does this challenge the idea that salvation is something we achieve on our own?

5. Jesus teaches that those who receive Him as Messiah will be given more understanding, while those who reject Him will lose what they have. How did Israel as a nation demonstrate this?

6. The one who embraces Christ as Messiah is blessed and enters into the joy of God's full picture of Salvation in Christ. Read I Peter 1:10-12. How do believers in Christ as Messiah have access to the bigger picture of God's redemptive plan?

7. Jesus explains that a person's response to the truth of the Messiah reveals the condition of their heart. Define a distracted, diluted, or disappointed listener, as opposed to a discerning listener.

8. Which of these four responses to hearing and receiving Christ have been most evident in your own life, and why?

9. Close your time in prayer, asking God to prepare your heart as good soil so that His Word can take root, grow, and bear fruit in your life.