

The Chapel Family Bible Reading Program – September 2nd – 7th
Doing Life Together – Doing Life Together

MONDAY:

KEY VERSE: Matthew 13

OBSERVATION: In his Gospel, Matthew presents five primary discourses of Jesus. Matthew 13 is the third of these discourses, each ending with “and it happened, when Jesus had finished...” (cf. 7:28; 11:1; 13:53; 19:1; 26:1). Matthew presents Jesus’ teaching in chapter 13 as a major turning point in his ministry. The focus of Matthew 13 is the “kingdom of heaven.” Matthew uses this phrase thirty-two times in his Gospel, whereas Mark and Luke prefer “kingdom of God.” Both phrases connote the same meaning. According to Luther’s Large Catechism, the “kingdom of God”

TUESDAY:

KEY VERSE: Matthew 13:24-30

OBSERVATION: The primary point of this parable: even though believers must coexist with unbelievers in the present world, Jesus will return and give final victory and glorification (v 43) to his children. Jesus’ words in Jn 16:33 summarize this parable well: “These things I have spoken to you that you may have peace in me; in the world you have tribulation/distress, but take courage, I myself have overcome the world.”

WEDNESDAY:

KEY VERSE: Matthew 13:31-32

OBSERVATION: The primary point of this parable: God is powerful. He uses His Word to build his Kingdom. Man is not able to discern the power of the Word of God until its effects become visible. Jesus’ office of Prophet is seen in the background of this parable, as he proclaims his Word to the world and is himself proclaimed. As Jesus’ kingdom grows, then is one able to take notice of it. Believers in Jesus have the confidence that in spite of any negative conditions or influences around them (cf. previous parable), Jesus is all-powerful.

THURSDAY:

KEY VERSE: Matthew 13:33

OBSERVATION: The primary point of this parable: God is powerful. The tertium in this parable, directly mirroring the previous parable, is the growth of the Kingdom of heaven. Again the hidden power of God’s Word is pictured by the comparison to the hidden (to the human eye) work of yeast. And again, just as the results of the work of the yeast are clear, so also with the Kingdom of heaven. The effects of yeast are also all-pervasive: it penetrates the whole. Wherever God’s Word is, it cannot help but have an effect on all around it (Is 55:11).

FRIDAY:

KEY VERSE: Matthew 13:44

OBSERVATION: God’s love of mankind is a choice he makes. God’s grace emanates from him toward man at his own discretion. Scripture makes it clear what God’s discretion is: he “wills [desires] all men to be saved” (1 Ti 2:4). Thus it brings God much pleasure, much joy, to view mankind as a valuable entity.

SATURDAY:

KEY VERSE: Matthew 13:45-46

OBSERVATION: The very valuable pearl is the kingdom of God, God’s saving activity as shown in Christ. The “man, a merchant,” is the one who discovers the pearl and subsequently gives his all to obtain it.²⁸ Jesus used this parable to express the same point as he made with the parable of the treasure. He simply wanted his listeners to view his teaching from another perspective. The primary point of this parable: one who needs rescue is overjoyed in finding it in the “pearl” of God’s saving activity. (See the explanation of the parable of the treasure for additional details.)