

EQUIPPED TO FOLLOW: Part 24

Parables on the Kingdom

OPEN IN PRAYER

Invite someone to open in prayer, inviting the Holy Spirit to move and speak.

DISCUSSION

1. **Read Matthew 13:31-33:**

- a. Matthew chapter 13 alone includes 7 parables on the Kingdom of God. Why do you think it was so important for Jesus to give all this time teaching on the kingdom of God?
- b. Make as many observations as you can from these two parables, also noting where they are similar. *[See below if your group is struggling.]* As you discuss, what do you believe we can learn about the kingdom of God from these two parables?
- c. It is one thing to understand the parable, it is still another thing to put it into practice. How do you think Jesus is calling us to respond?
- d. Put another way: How can we become receptive to and conduits of the life-giving nature of the Kingdom of God?

LET'S PRAY:

Jesus taught us to prioritise His Kingdom in prayer: "Your kingdom come ... on earth as it is in heaven." Bring receptive hearts to God and pray for more of God's kingdom to come. Pray that it would grow in you like these parables describe so that you can become a life-giving place to others.

Observations on Matthew 13:31-33:

- In both parables, the Kingdom comes in small amounts. This is more of an inside-out approach versus an outside-in approach. Do not despise small deposits of Kingdom life.
- In both parables, there is an active response: 1) The farmer intentionally plants the seed; 2) The woman actively works the yeast into the dough. This implies we are not only to be RECEPTIVE but also RESPONSIVE to the deposits of the Kingdom in our lives.
- Both parables show that the natural work of the Kingdom is grow into all aspects of our lives. We work against the natural growth of the Kingdom by compartmentalizing the rule of God in our lives.
- Not only does the Kingdom grow naturally, it INFLUENCES and ENRICHES every part as it grows.
- The outcome in both parables is something that is life-giving to others: 1) A tree providing shade; and 2) A loaf of bread providing nourishment.