

Sermon Reflections

Kingdom Hearts

(Matthew 13:1-23)

Summary: Christ builds His Kingdom in people's hearts through the proclamation of His Word.
Has the Kingdom taken root in your heart?

Three Diagnostic Questions to Consider:

1. Are You Listening to the Word? (vv. 1-9)

- The Jewish leaders Jesus taught in parables, what are parables and why did Jesus use them?
- How do parables assist in teaching the truth of God's Word?
- How is a parable different from an allegory?
- Jesus ended the parable of the sower with a "cliff hanger," what was His purpose in doing so?
- What is kingdom work and how are you actively involved with it?
- How does the "Kingdom of God" advance?

2. Do You Understand the Word in Your Heart? (vv. 10-17)

- The disciples questioned Jesus further about His parable, what was His reply?
- Why were those sitting on the outer fringes never committing nor understanding? What was the cause for this?
- Is there a failure with the "Word" if the seed doesn't grow? Why or why not?
- What sets apart those who follow from those who remain on the outer edges? (see verse 11)
- Does Jesus' statement indicate or support the teaching of "election"? Explain why or why not?
- What was the purpose for Jesus quoting Isaiah 6:9-10?

3. Have You Been Changed in Your Life? (vv. 18-23)

- Jesus explains each type of soil to His disciples. Briefly summarize His explanation.
- What are the other influences that hindered or prevented the seed from growing? Have you encountered these obstacles in your life? Explain why you have remained a follower.
- What is the difference between "idle faith" and "active faith" and the fruit that is produced in each?
- The fruit produced varied in amounts like 100, 60, and 30 fold. Why are these so different?
- What is more meaningful than the *amount* of fruit produced by a believer?
- What is the solution for your lack of fruit and growth? What will you do about it?