

Other Teachings of the Church:

- Founded on Jesus as the Son of God (Mat. 16:18-20)
- Jesus is the Head of the Church (Col. 1:18)
- Reason for Jesus' Sacrifice (Eph. 5:23-25)
- Equipped for a Variety of Ministries (1 Cor. 12:12-14)
- Live in Contrast to the World (2 Tim. 2:19)
- Live as a Family in Continuous Fellowship (Acts 2:42)
- A Chosen and Royally Appointed Priesthood (1Pet. 2:5-9)
- Always Ready to Give an Account of Our Hope (1Pet. 3:15)
- Gather Frequently & More Often as the Day Approaches (Heb. 10:25)
- Love One Another as Christ Loves Us (Jn.13:34-35)

The Kingdom Parables (Matthew 13)

Why Parables (13:10-17):

- So That the Believer May Understand, Not the Unbeliever
- Guidance of the Holy Spirit
- As Truth is Given to the Believer, the Believer is Judged
 - Do We Substitute Our Preferences Over Spiritual Truth?
 - Do We Proclaim or Withhold?
 - Do We Teach Sound Doctrine or False
 - Do We Offer Learning or Emotion Only

The Concealed Secret of the Old Testament (13:34-35; CF. Eph. 3:4-6)

- The Church
 - Converted Gentiles and Jews
 - Grafted into the New Covenant of Christ
 - Co-Heirs with Christ, Together
 - Partakers of the Same Gospel

The Four Soils (13:3-9;18-23):

- Seed: Word of God
- Soil: Hearts in the World
- Birds: Servants of the Evil One
- Stony Places: Shallow Faith (Immature/Fair Weather)
- Thorns: Worldly Cares Shade Spiritual Growth

The Wheat and the Tares (13:24-30; 36-43):

- Sower: Christ
- Field: World
- Wheat: Believers / Tares: Unbelievers
- Enemy: Devil
- The Enemy Will Harass the Kingdom
- True Colors Will Become Evident

The Mustard Seed (13:31-32):

- Egyptian (3ft); West European (20ft)
- Constancy: Prophetic Symbols Hold Meaning
- Birds? (Ref. Parable of the Four Soils)

Flour and Leaven (13:33):

- 3 Measures of Meal (Fellowship Offering)
 - Ref. Gen. 18 Abraham at Mamre (God and 2 Angels)
- Leaven is Symbolic of Sin (Corruption by Puffing Up)
 - Pride Before God
 - Pride Destroying Fellowship
 - Pride Corrupting the Kingdom (Church)

The Treasure and the Field (13:44):

- Field: World (Ref. Wheat & Tares / 4 Soils)
- Treasure: The Church
- Christ Gave All

The Pearl of Great Price (13:45-46):

- Oysters are NOT KOSHER
- Pearls are Unclean (Gentiles)
- Begin as an Irritant
- Grow Through "Washing"
- Removed and Cherished as Precious

The Fishing Net (13:47-50):

- Christ as Divine Judge
 - Brought in the Good/Cast Out the Bad

Central Truths:

4 Soils:

- Church Membership Requires Commitment
- Persecutors from the Outside (Avoid Birds)
 - Teaching Within the Home and the Church
- Maturity Withstands Persecution and Worldly Pressures
- Maturity Digs Deeper into the Word of God
- Maturity Requires Constant Watchfulness and Reliance on God

Wheat & Tares:

- Discipline Within the Body (Persecutors Within)
- The Enemy will Try to Rob the Body of Health
- Persecution from Within (Gossip, Posturing, False Teaching, Power Struggles)
- Church Membership Does NOT Equal Regeneration
- The Truth of the Heart is Known to God

The Mustard Seed:

- Gentiles Are Part of the Growing Church
- The Church Grows Through Faith (Reliance on God's Faithfulness)
- A Growing Church Attracts the Enemy's Attention (The Birds are After the Seeds)
- False Teachers and Doctrines
- False Image or Understanding of Christ

Flour and Leaven:

- Sin Corrupts the Body
- Pride Destroys the Fellowship
- Pride Corrupts Totally
- A Church More Reliant on Self than God is Useless

Treasure in the Field:

- John 3:16-17

The Fishing Net:

- Christ is Lord and Judge

For Session 11:

- What Does Prophecy Mean to You?
- What Are the Characteristics of Real Prophecy?
- How Did They / Can We Identify False Prophets?
