

Matt 13:1-52; Mark 4:1-34 - Daily Study Questions (cont)

<p>4. In Mark 4:21-25 what parable did Jesus tell (v21) and what was He teaching (v22)? What impacts what will be revealed in our lives (v23, 24, 25)? Apply.</p>	
<p>5. Look at Mark 4:26-29. Tell this parable in your own words. What is the point and how does this add to the other teachings about the seed and soil?</p>	
<p>6. Read Matt 13:31-33. What are these 2 parables, and what is the main teaching of each (v32, 33)? How can we apply this?</p>	
<p>7. Using Matt 13:44-46 what are the 2 parables here (v44, 45-46), what do the elements correspond to, and what is their main teaching?</p>	
<p>8. From Matt 13:47-50 what other picture is given of the judgment at the end of the age (v47-48, 49-50)? What can we learn from this?</p>	
<p>9. According to Matt 13:51-52 who becomes a disciple (v52) and what does he do (v52)? What does this mean and how can we apply it?</p>	
<p>10. Based on Matt 13:34-35 how much did Jesus use parables (v34) and why did He use this method so much (v35)? What does it show about Him?</p>	
<p>11. Looking back over Jesus' parables how does His kingdom grow and how is its presence seen? When will it be fully defined and how should we apply these truths?</p>	

Scripture to Remember

“For whoever has, to him shall more be given, and he shall have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him.”

Matthew 13:12 (NASV)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

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Life Group Questions—Ordinary Christmas (Luke 1:26-55)

(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. Go around the room and share about the house and town in which you grew up (the main one that you call “home”). What are some of the effects of that?
2. Read Luke 1:26-38. God's first words after 400 years was in Nazareth. What was it like? Why does God tend to use people with “ordinary” backgrounds?
3. Talk about some of your “ordinary” processes of life. How has God spoken to you through these and what are some of the things He has said?
4. In what ways was Mary an “ordinary” girl? In what ways do you consider yourself ordinary? How does God use ordinary people to accomplish His purpose?
5. Why is it important to develop an awareness of God, as Mary had, to be used by Him? What are some of the ways we can consistently develop that?
6. In devoting yourself to the plan of God for your life what are the “risks, costs, and rewards”? In light of this why is it vital to depend on the promises of God?
7. Talk about anything else meaningful from the message if you have time.



THE LIFE OF JESUS

Studies in the Gospels

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Growing in Spirit & Truth

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The Lights Are On, But... Matthew 13:1-52; Mark 4:1-34



Jesus' one solitary life changed the course of mankind for eternity.

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God's pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God's family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

The phrase, “the lights are on but nobody’s home”, describes someone who doesn’t quite “get it”. Their in-depth understanding of something is lacking. In this week’s study Jesus teaches to those who could be described this way—they don’t understand the truth of His message. So, He employed the teaching method of parables, stories that revealed kingdom truth without clearly saying what it was. Only those with “spiritual ears” like the disciples could understand because they were willing to obey His teachings. Those who refused would never understand; so, to insure that a superficial response didn’t occur Jesus taught them in parables. First, Jesus focused on the development of the kingdom. In the parable of the soils the seed (the Word of God) is scat-

tered on various soils—ones that are hard, shallow, or thorny, and one that is good. The seed sown on the first is taken away by the evil one, while the second withers under persecution. The third starts off well, but is choked out, while the last is the only one with enduring fruit. This parable shows that one’s fruitful response to the Word of God is what really matters. Next, Jesus shows how the kingdom is defined. These parables depict the certainty and timing of the judgment. Even though all may look somewhat alike now, at the end of the age the good and the bad, the wheat and the tares, will be separated. The righteous will endure while those who are evil will experience the fires of hell. Finally, Jesus told stories that revealed how the kingdom would be demonstrated. Like the tiny

mustard seed that grows into a large tree, God’s kingdom would begin small, but would also become the largest in the world. Similarly, just as yeast affects the entire batch of dough, so the effects of God’s Word would be seen all over the world. Furthermore, the kingdom is such a treasure that it is worth selling all one has to possess it. The value of the kingdom is seen as those educated in the ways of the Lord retrieve new treasures from it, along with the old. Sadly, many rejected His teachings, showing that the lights were on, but no one was home.

Study Questions for Matt 13:1-52; Mark 4:1-34

(for answers go to [http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf.html/study questions](http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf.html/study%20questions))

<p>1. Using Matt 13:1-9 and 18-23 what was Jesus’ teaching method here (v1-3, 9)? Give the outline of this story (v3, 4, 5-6, 7, 8), what each point means (v18-19, 20-21, 22, 23), and the primary teaching.</p>	
<p>2. Read Matt 13:10-17. Why did Jesus teach in parables (v10-12, 13)? How does v12 explain this? What prophecy did this fulfill (v14-15) and why were the disciples blessed (v16-17)?</p>	
<p>3. From Matt 13:24-30 and 36-43 what were the elements (v24, 25, 26-27, 28-29, 30) and meanings (v36-37, 38, 39, 40-42, 43) of the next parable? What do you think Jesus’ main point is?</p>	

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