

Parables About the Surprising Arrival of Heaven's Kingdom

How (and What) the

Parables of Jesus

Help Us See

Lesson 6

"Proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'" (Matt 10:7)

For the rest of our study, we'll break the parables of Jesus into three major themes generally found in three progressive "seasons" of his teaching:

- Parables about the **surprising arrival** of heaven's kingdom (a season of announcement)
- Parables about the **upside-down nature** of heaven's kingdom (a season of teaching)
- Parables about the **crisis of decision** caused by heaven's kingdom (a season of confrontation)

In Greek, *para* means "alongside" and *bole* means "to set." Put those two together and you can see that the word *parabole* refers to something "set alongside" something else for comparison or contrast. This is why we will hear Jesus repeatedly saying, "the kingdom of heaven is like..."

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A good overview of this "season of announcement" is found in [Matthew 13](#). We've spent a lot of time in the first five lessons of this series analyzing *how* the parables of Jesus help us see. Take the time to carefully read these "arrival" parables. **What do they help us see?**

- The parable of the sower ([13:1-23](#)) -
- The parable of the seed growing at night ([Mark 4:26-29](#)) -
- The parable of the wheat and the weeds ([Matt 13:24-30, 36-43](#)) -
- The parable of the mustard seed ([13:31-32](#)) -
- The parable of the leaven ([13:33](#)) -
- The parable of the hidden treasure ([13:44](#)) -
- The parable of the pearl of great value ([13:45-46](#)) -
- The parable of the net ([13:47-50](#)) -

"Have you understood all these things?" Jesus asks in [Matthew 13:51](#). What do you make of his summary statement in [13:52](#)?



For Next Week...

We'll kick off a series of lessons looking at parables revolving around the **upside-down nature** of heaven's kingdom. Want a sneak peek? Take the time to thoughtfully read [Luke 10:25-37](#). Once you have, look at it through the "kingdom of heaven" lens we've been spending so much time studying. How did Jesus' response to that lawyer encourage an "upside-down" way of looking at life (then and now)?