

Introduction

Parables of the Kingdom of God

This is series of messages prepared by Chris Burnett who has known the Lord Jesus as his Saviour for over 13 years. These messages were preached at Coundon fellowship in 2007/8. It would give Chris joy to think that these notes are of help to someone else who wants to preach the Word of God and who is seeking reference material. You should free to make copies for that purpose. Whilst we hope that authors from whom quotes have been taken will not object to such quotes being copied, we cannot guarantee that. The illustration on this page is by Horace Knowles © The British and Foreign Bible Society 1954, 1967, 1972, 1995 and is used by permission. (www.biblesociety.com)

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In Matthew 13 Jesus preaches five parables on the Kingdom of God and they work in order, like a story. It begins with the planting of the seed, parable of the sower, then we see how the seeds grow, the parable of the weeds, then we see how they spread, mustard seed, we then get a glimpse of the personal interaction involved, pearl and treasure, and finally we end up with the parable of the net where Jesus brings his teaching on the Kingdom to a dramatic end with the end of the world.

We will take these five parables and explore what each one meant to Jesus' audience at the time and hopefully learn some lessons for our lives today. In these parables are many many hidden depths that this series only begins to uncover, my hope would be that this is a sprinboard for your own study. We can learn lessons for us as individuals and for the Church and see how God's plans are working in each. Jesus chose to teach in parables which gives us not only the joy of learning but of exploring and digging for gold. Be encouraged to consider Jesus' parables with the weight they will have been given at the time as the main tool of teaching. In short, enjoy this series but meditate on Jesus' teaching along side this to understand more about the Kingdom.