

Study Notes and Questions for Matthew Chapter Thirteen

- Matthew 13:1–2 tells us that Jesus went out of the house where He had been staying and sat by the lake, but He soon changed locations. What did He do, and why?
- Why did Jesus use parables to teach the crowds (13:3, 10–15)?
- What was given to the disciples but not to the crowd (13:11) and why were the crowds not allowed to understand?
- Read Isaiah 6:1–13. This is the text Jesus partially quotes in Matthew 13:13–15. What is the context in Isaiah? To whom is the Lord speaking there? How does this relate to the people in Jesus' day?
- Who had longed to see what the disciples were witnessing and why?
- Jesus gave His own interpretation of the parable of the sower in Matthew 13:18–23. What does the parable reveal to us that we wouldn't know without it?
- **Note:** The kingdom of heaven is like (13:24). The phrase used to introduce six of the seven parables in this chapter.
- Why is it sometimes difficult to tell the difference between those who believe in Christ and those who do not (see Acts 26:20; Titus 1:16)?
- **Note:** The smallest of all seeds (13:32). While not the smallest seed known today, in Palestine during the time of Jesus, the mustard seed was the smallest seed used by farmers and gardeners. Mustard plants could reach ten feet in height.
- What is the connection between the kingdom and the size of the mustard seed and how it grows (13:31–32)?
- In what way is the kingdom like yeast (13:33)?
- According to these parables, what will happen to those things that cause sin and all who do evil?
- What does the parable of the net tell us about the judgment to come (13:47–50)?
- In what way did the people of Jesus' hometown express that He had not met their expectations?
- What do you feel was the most important element of this chapter?