

Lesson 22 - Matthew 13:1-23 Discussion Questions for the Week of November 30 - December 6, 2025

**Overview:** Jesus had repeatedly made His identity clear to the leaders as well as to the crowds. The majority of the leaders chose to reject Him and actively oppose Him. The crowds wanted the benefits Jesus offered, but they were unwilling to submit to His lordship. Jesus began to use **parables** to teach.

**Read 13:1-9**

1. What is the benefit of using stories to communicate? What are the possible downsides of communicating this way? Why do you think Jesus began to teach the crowds in parables?
2. The first parable Jesus shared was the parable of the Sower and the Soils. What was the destiny of the seeds in each type of soil?

Compacted ground -

Rocky ground -

Thorny ground -

Fertile ground -

3. What do you think was the crowd's level of comprehension of Jesus' parable? Explain. If they didn't understand, what should people in the crowd have done? Jesus ends this parable with the phrase, "He who has ears, let him hear". What does this mean to you?

**Read 13:10-17**

4. What must the disciples have understood about the crowd's comprehension based on verse 10? What had they hoped Jesus would do? What would have been a better question for them to ask? How do you handle situations where you don't understand what is being taught?
5. Jesus explained the reason He spoke to the crowds in parables. What did He mean by, "... the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away."? What did He promise for the "... one who has..."? What does that mean to you?
6. Jesus said the crowd was fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy in Isaiah 6:9-10. Why will the people *never* understand and *never* perceive? What does the Lord desire of the people according to this prophecy? What will He do for them?
7. Scan this section again. What is the blessing for those who hear and see?

**Read 13:18-23**

8. Read verses 18-19 and compare it to the crowd. What has the crowd done with the word of the kingdom? As further evidence, what does the crowd do in Matthew 27:20-23?
9. What does the phrase in verse 21 "no root in himself" mean? In what did he fail to root?
10. According to verse 22, what two things choke the word and make it unfruitful? Explain why you think these two things are mentioned. Have these presented a challenge for you?
11. The last seed produces fruit. What do they do with the word, in contrast with the other seeds?