





Thursday

Matthew 12:38-50 Insiders & Outsiders

 Observation: "Ah-ha!" What struck you?


 Question: What do you not understand?


 Application & Prayer: How will I respond?


 Conversation: Who can I share this with?


Saturday

Matthew 13:24-583 Parables of the Kingdom (Pt.2)

 Observation: "Ah-ha!" What struck you?


 Question: What do you not understand?


 Application & Prayer: How will I respond?


 Conversation: Who can I share this with?


Friday

Matthew 13:1-23 Parables of the Kingdom (Pt.1)

 Observation: "Ah-ha!" What struck you?

 Question: What do you not understand?

 Application & Prayer: How will I respond?

 Conversation: Who can I share this with?


Sunday


The Purpose of Parables


As Jesus encounters increasing opposition, He begins using parables in His teaching. *Why?* Because they reveal truth to those who believe in Jesus, who engage in relationship by asking questions when they don't understand, even as parables conceal that same truth from those who deny the evidence of His identity. What even *is* a parable, technically? It is a short story, often framed as a simile, that illustrates spiritual truth. To understand a parable today, we first need to see and hear from the perspective of the original audience. What images are they seeing? What emotions are being evoked? Yeast, for example, did not come dried in packets; rather, a piece of a previous batch was folded into, literally "hidden" in (ESV), the new batch. This might alter or enhance the way we process the parable. Then, we should seek to identify Jesus' main point, though it can be tempting to get caught up in the details. Finally, we should let the truth revealed by Jesus' teaching challenge, and likely change, our perception. Like the disciples and the crowd, we tend to have our own expectations about how the Messiah King will act or the way in which His Kingdom will come. Will we allow Jesus to correct us, or will we walk away, content to dismiss His parables as bizarre anecdotes? Choose a parable from Saturday's reading and ask Jesus for help as you take a second look.


Monday

Matthew 14:1-21 Two Kings, Two Feasts

 Observation: "Ah-ha!" What struck you?


 Question: What do you not understand?


 Application & Prayer: How will I respond?


 Conversation: Who can I share this with?


Tuesday

Matthew 14:22-36 A Saviour Sovereign Over the Sea

 Observation: "Ah-ha!" What struck you?

 Question: What do you not understand?

 Application & Prayer: How will I respond?

 Conversation: Who can I share this with?


Lenten Readings


The Gospel of Matthew: The King and His Kingdom


Last week, Matthew gave us insight into the two complementary aspects of Jesus' ministry. In the Sermon on the Mount (Ch.5-7), Jesus ministers with His words as He proclaims with authority the message of His Kingdom. In Matthew 8 & 9, we see a snapshot of His ministry of healing, restoring and rescuing works. As Isaac Watts wrote, "He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found." These are but a foretaste of things to come! Having outlined for us the message of the King, Matthew then shares with us the spectrum of reactions to the Messiah, His message, and His call to participate in His mission. As we read on, we will see Jesus face increasing opposition – how will the King respond?


Wednesday

Matthew 12:1-37 A Tale of Two Kingdoms

 Observation: "Ah-ha!" What struck you?

 Question: What do you not understand?

 Application & Prayer: How will I respond?

 Conversation: Who can I share this with?