

A Harmony of the Gospels

Secrets About the Kingdom Given in Parables

- The parable of the mustard seed Matthew 13:31-32; Mark 4:30-32
 - In contrast to the expectation that the kingdom of God would appear dramatically with the Messiah as a political or military conqueror, the kingdom will begin small and experience great growth.

Secrets About the Kingdom Given in Parables

- The parable of the leavened loaf Matthew 13:33-35; Mark 4:33-34
 - The kingdom will begin through almost imperceptible influence and exert unmistakable influence.

Secrets About the Kingdom Given in Parables

- The parable of the hidden treasure Matthew 13:44
- The parable of the valuable pearl Matthew 13:45-46
 - These two parables drive home the same lesson—the priceless value of embracing the kingdom of God.
 - Some stumble upon it.
 - Some respond to God’s prompting by diligent search
 - The worth of the kingdom exceeds any cost of discipleship.

Secrets About the Kingdom Given in Parables

- The parable of the net Matthew 13:47-50
 - Jesus, in this parable and the preceding parable of the wheat and the weeds, reveals the distinct futures of those inside and outside of the kingdom of God.
 - Note the parallel to Revelation 14:14-20
 - In his teachings Jesus reveals much more about the state of those who die. With the exception of Daniel 12:2-3 little detail is given in the Old Testament.

Secrets About the Kingdom Given in Parables

- The parable of the house owner Matthew 13:51-53
 - The kingdom of God is the fulfillment of the teachings of what we know as the Old Testament. One who grasps the teaching of the fact that the kingdom of God has arrived makes the connections between the old and the new.

Crossing the lake and calming the storm Matthew 8:18,23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25

- Our faith is always well-founded in the revealed will of God.
 - “Let us go to the other side”
- We often panic when our circumstances give a conflicting message to the revealed will of God.
- We need to be more awed at Jesus than fearful of circumstances that conflict with His revealed will.