

The Kingdom of God

Mystery of the Harvest

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Matthew 13:10-11 NKJV

10 And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"

11 He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to

know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.

Growth Prohibitors

- ✓ **Lack of understanding: The devil snatches the seed.**

Matthew 13:19 NLT

The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message about the Kingdom and **don't understand it**. Then the evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts.

- ✓ **Lack of root growth: Can't handle problems & persecutions.**

Matthew 13:20-21 NLT

20 The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. 21 But since they **don't have deep roots**, they don't last long.

They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word.

- ✓ **Lack of Sun Light: Not focused on the Sun...Jesus.**

Matthew 13:22 NLT

The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God's word, but all too quickly **the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth**, so no fruit is produced.

Kingdom Principle of Growth

Genesis 2:4-5 NLT

4...When the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, 5 neither wild plants nor grains were growing on the earth. The Lord God had not yet sent rain to water the earth, and **there were no people to cultivate the soil**.

Notes: _____

Bringing in the King's Harvest

1. **Plant the seed of the Good News of the Kingdom.**

Matthew 13:24 NLT

Here is another story Jesus told:

The Kingdom of Heaven is like a **farmer who planted good seed** in his field.

Matthew 24:14 NLT

And the **Good News about the Kingdom will be preached** throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.

2. **Prevail: Be encouraged - small Kingdom seeds grow.**

Luke 13:18-19 NLT

18 Then Jesus said, "What is the Kingdom of God like? How can I illustrate it?

19 It is **like a tiny mustard seed** that a man planted in a garden;

it grows and becomes a tree, and the birds make nests in its branches."

Luke 13:20-21 NLT

20 He also asked, "What else is the Kingdom of God like? 21 It is like the yeast a woman used in making bread. Even though she put **only a little yeast** in three measures of flour, **it permeated every part of the dough**."

3. **Produce a harvest for the King.**

Matthew 13:23 NLT

The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God's word and **produce a harvest** of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!

Notes: _____

