

Matthew's Gospel

Chapter 13b

Parables 1-4: “On the shore...”

- 1. The Sower & the Seed**
- 2. The Other Sower & the Other Seed**
- 3. The Mustard Seed**
- 4. The Woman, the Leaven, and the Flour**

- **Outdoors**
- **Crowds**
- **Agricultural**
- **Visible to all**

Parables 5-7: “*In the house...*”

5. The Hidden Treasure

6. The Pearl Merchant

7. The Fishnet

- **Indoors**
- **Disciples only**
- **Searching & Finding**
- **Hidden to all**

Uniqueness of the First Parable:

- Longest of the seven
- Not preceded by “*The Kingdom of Heaven is like...*”
- Contains Yeshua’s discourse on parables
- Quotes **Isaiah 6:9-10** (v.13 refers to “seed”)
- Corresponds to the letter to Ephesus (Rev.2:1-7).
 - And to the *other* letter to Ephesus.
 - And to the other message to Ephesus.

(More on these later.)

PARABLE #2

What is the 'SEED'?

- **Parable #1** – the seed is: the Message
- **Parable #2** – the seed is: the Messengers

A Note on “Tares”

ζιζανιον
(zizanion)

זנונין
(zinunin)

According to **Genesis Rabbah 28:8** this derives from:

זנה
(zonah)
“prostitute”

Romans 8:20-23

For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.



Tare

Wheat

PARABLE #3

Q: What is odd about this parable?



A: Four Things ...

- 1) Mustard plants are **bushes**; not trees.
- 2) Mustard seeds are *not* the smallest of seeds.
- 3) The sower seems to have been expecting **vegetables**.
- 4) Mustard is merely a **seasoning**; not food.

PARABLE #4

Q: Does leaven represent a good thing?

A: You decide...

Exodus 12:15

Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, but on the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses; for whoever eats anything leavened from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel.

Luke 12:1

... He began saying to His disciples first of all, “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.”

1 Corinthians 5:6-8

Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough? Clean out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Messiah our Passover also has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Q: What does the first parable have to do with Ephesus?



Q: Who were the Nicolaitanes?

Acts 6:5

And the statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch.



Νικολαιτων

νικο + λαος

“victory” + “people” =

“Victory over the people”

בלעם

“Balaam”

עם + בעל

= “people” + “lord/master”

“Master over the people”

Acts 20:29-30

I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

Q: What is the the Mystery of the Gospel?

A: The Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Messiah Yeshua through the Gospel. (Ephesians 3:6)

