

Growing Forward
Receiving the Secrets of the Kingdom

Sunday, May 21, 2023

Matthew 13: 10-16 NIV

¹⁰The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?”

¹¹He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. ¹²Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ¹³This is why I speak to them in parables: “Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. ¹⁴In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:

“You will be ever hearing but never understanding;
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.

¹⁵For this people’s heart has become calloused;
they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes.
Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears,
understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.’

¹⁶But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears
because they hear.

- 1. God’s Word is for the Seeking Heart.** Has your understanding of God’s Word broadened as you have sought Him more?
- 2. The More We Seek, *the More We See.*** What is something new God has shown you as you sought Him?
- 3. The More We See, *the More We Want to See.*** Has this proven true in your heart? What do you want to see more of in your life?

Conclusion: May our hearts be softened to the Word of God, our minds have increasing understanding to the ways of God, and our eyes enlightened to see the wonders of God. May our greatest desire be receiving from God the Secrets to His Kingdom!

LIFE GROUP LESSON
Receiving the Secrets of the Kingdom
Week of May 21-May 27, 2023

Ice Breaker: What is something God has revealed to you recently?

Read Matthew 13: 10-16.

1. What is a parable? (v.10)
2. Why did Jesus speak in so many parables? (v.11)
3. What does verse 11 mean?
4. Who have the secrets of the kingdom been given to? Who have they been withheld from?
5. What is a promise for those who seek to know God? (v.12)
6. What is true for those who are not believers? (v.12)
7. What is Jesus confirming in vs. 13-14?
8. Will an unbeliever who is set on rejecting Christ ever believe God’s Word as truth?
9. Will an unbeliever set on rejection find encouragement and hope in God’s Word?
10. What would happen if they believed His Word? (v.15)
11. Who is God’s Word for? (v.16)
12. Read Matthew 6:33. What are we commanded to do? Why? How does this promise relate to receiving the secrets of the Kingdom?
13. Read Matthew 22:37. Why are we called to actively love God with all our being? What happens to us when we do this?
14. Read Proverbs 2: 3-6. How are we to value gaining understanding from God? What is the reward when we do this? How might this relate to receiving the secrets of the Kingdom?
15. Read Daniel 2: 21-22. When we seek God with all our heart, what does He reveal to us? Might these be secrets the world does not know?
16. Read Jeremiah 24:7. What will God give us as we desire to know Him?
17. Read Ephesians 1: 18-19. What is Paul praying for? Why would we want to have the eyes of our heart enlightened?
18. Read the Parable of the Sower in Matthew 13. How does this parable relate to receiving the secrets of the Kingdom? What must we make sure we do?
19. Do you have a seeking heart to know God and His Truth? Do you desire to receive the secrets of the Kingdom?