

**Week 10 – Parables of the Present Kingdom – Part I
(Preview)**

Day 1: Context

Read Matthew 13, Luke 13

1. In what context does Matthew place these parables (Mark places them in similar context)? To whom is Jesus speaking? What has happened and what is about to happen?

2. In what context does Luke place these parables? To whom is Jesus speaking? What has happened and what is about to happen?

3. How do these two contexts differ? How are they the same?

Day 2: The Growing Seed and The Wheat and the Weeds

Read Mark 4:26-29, Matthew 13:24-30, 26-43

1. Summarize the parable of The Growing Seed.

2. Summarize the parable of The Wheat and the Weeds.

3. What do these parables teach about the present kingdom?

Day 3: The Mustard Seed and The Leaven

Read Matthew 13:31-33, Mark 4:30-32, Luke 13:18-21

1. Summarize the parable of The Mustard Seed.
2. Summarize the parable of The Leaven.
3. What do these parables teach about the present kingdom?

Day 4: The Harvest

Read Hosea 6:11, Joel 3:13, Mark 4:26-29, Matthew 13:24-30, 26-43, Revelation 14:14-20

1. “The harvest” is used in multiple ways in scripture. For these parables and the other scripture you read today, to what does it generally refer?
2. For the parable of the Wheat and the Weeds, in the explanation Jesus gives what warning is given to the “weeds”? What promise is given to the “wheat”?
3. Do you think about the harvest? Why or why not? What benefit would there be in thinking of it more?

Day 5: Growth of the Kingdom

Read Matthew 13:31-33, Mark 4:30-32, Luke 13:18-21

1. What do the Growing Seed, Mustard Seed, and Leaven parables teach about the growth of the kingdom? Is it more obvious or more subtle? Is it fast or slow?
2. In the parable of the Growing Seed, “the earth produces by itself” the crop. What can we infer about this? Whose work is the growth of the kingdom?
3. How do your answers to the two previous questions give the believer patience, confidence and comfort?