

Summary of the Parables

Fig Tree: Mark 13:45-46; D&C 34:4d-4e

When you shall see the *obvious* signs of His coming, you will know that the Kingdom and the Lord's return are near.

Fig Tree 2: Luke 13:6-9. Not stated as a parable of the Kingdom.

Householder: Matthew 13:52-54

Those well instructed in the Kingdom of Heaven will add to their intellectual understanding, the necessary actions expected of a citizen of the Kingdom.

Kingdoms of Joy: D&C 85:13a-16a.

This is not stated as a parable of The Kingdom, but as a parable of kingdoms. God will visit and commune intimately with every man who labors for Him, in His own time and way (14c, 15, 16a, 18b). Anticipate the fulfillment of this promise of God. Let those times of communion when you have experienced Him and/or the anticipation of the promise of the same, sustain you when you do not feel His presence as deeply as you desire.

Laborers: Matthew 20:1-15

God will be merciful, just, and generous, both in recompense and blessing. His rewards are not based on our expectations, but on His grace and desires. Work for Him with the understanding that He will provide everything that He has promised and more.

Leaven: Matthew 13:32; Luke 13:20-21

Those who have the Kingdom within them should transform the world around them (including the church) for the purpose of influencing it for the Kingdom. Just as yeast or other leavens affect the whole loaf, we are to affect the world.

Marriage Supper: Matthew 22:1-14

God has invited us to have fellowship (sup) with Him prior to the marriage of Christ and the church. The Kingdom of Heaven requires a response to God's invitation, a willingness to sit down and sup with Him. If we do not accept that invitation, He will invite others to take our place. However, that invitation also has an expectation: we are to come clothed in His righteousness.

Marriage Supper 2: Luke 14:16-24

This parable includes many details not contained in the first Marriage Supper, and leaves out details found in the first parable. If we find excuses to not sup with the Lord, He will extend that invitation to those that seem less worthy or less fortunate than we are. Those who were originally invited will lose out.

Maturing of Grain: Mark 4:20-23

Whatever is in you, whatever you listen to, whatever you sow, will grow and produce fruit, even if you don't consciously nurture it; eventually, you will harvest the fruit. So, listen to the Word of God.

Mustard Seed: Matthew 13:30-31; Mark 4:24-25; Luke 13:18-20

The Kingdom must first exist in individual lives. Once that happens, it will grow, expanding and branching out until it fully matures as the Kingdom of God on earth.

Net: Matthew 13:48-51

At the end of the world, angels will separate the wicked in the kingdom of God from the righteous, and they will be cast out and burned.

Pearl of Great Price: Matthew 13:47

The Kingdom should become so valuable to us that we are willing to give up everything for it.

Pounds (Minas): Luke 19:11-26

Jesus has left, but He will come again as King. He has given every person gifts and abilities. Those gifts are expected to bring increase. When He returns as king, his followers will be given reward based on their investment of the gifts He has given to them.

Those others who will not accept him as King will suffer judgment.

Sower: Matthew 13:2-7, 17-21; Mark 4:1-19; Luke 8:5-18

If we hear and keep God's Word, we will bear fruit. God requires this of us.

Talents: Matthew 25:13-31

The KJV says that the following is a parable specifically of the *Kingdom*. The IV does not. This parable directly follows the parable of the ten virgins, and seems to refer to it (vs. 13). See also The Pounds or Minas, specifically a *Kingdom* parable with a similar theme.

Our King absolutely expects increase from the investment He makes in us. If we don't try to make this happen, that which we have been given will be taken away and given to others.

Tares: 13:35-45; D&C 84:1a-2d; 98:9b-9c

Jesus, the sower, will plant His children in the world. Satan, the enemy, will plant his own children in the midst of the children of the Kingdom. They may be difficult to tell apart from the true seed, and it will not be possible to root them completely out without harming the children of the Kingdom. They will remain to some degree until the angels separate them from the righteous before Jesus returns, and bind them up for destruction with the rest of the wicked, at the end of the world.

Ten Virgins: Matthew 25:1-12; D&C 45:10b-10d, 63:13g-13h

Don't let the wickedness around you keep you from fulfilling your responsibilities. Be wise, be guided by the truth, don't be deceived, and rely on the Spirit. God will recognize faithfulness, and will judge unfaithfulness.

Tower: D&C 98:6a-8c

This is not stated as a parable of the Kingdom, but is designated a parable of the redemption of Zion. Although it has application to the Kingdom, it is for another class.

Treasure in a Field: Matthew 13:46

The joy of being of the Kingdom is so great that a man will give up everything that he has for it.

Unforgiving Servant: Matthew 18:21-34

God is unfathomably forgiving of our sins. What others do to us is tiny in comparison to our sin against God. If we are unwilling to forgive others, God will hold us accountable for our sin against Him.

Vineyard: Matthew 21:34-56; Mark 21:1-13; Luke 20:9-19

Just as the Jews were replaced as the bearers of the good news and the heirs of the Kingdom because of their rejection of the Son of God, so also will God reject anyone entrusted with the Kingdom of God if they are not faithful to that stewardship, and will give it to someone who will keep that trust.