

**Matthew**  
*Gail Arterburn –2026*

Monday, 9:30 – 11:00 am  
To be discussed –05/04/26

Matthew - Lesson 17  
Matthew 13:1-23

Chapter 13 contains the 3<sup>rd</sup> discourse which is known as the Parables of the Kingdom. Parables, in general, are simple stories taken from real life which make one or two points. They are designed to capture the listener's attention and make him consider his place in the story.

1. Read Matthew 13:1-9. To whom was Jesus speaking in these verses?
  
2. Who was the sower and what was the seed? What percentage of the seed actually produced a crop?
  
3. The one variable was the soil which is the focus of the parable. How were the four different soils described?
  
4. Read 13:10-17. To whom was Jesus speaking in these verses? What is his initial answer to the question about why he spoke in parables according to vv. 11-12? Who is he describing as “you” and “them”? How would you explain v. 12?
  
5. Verses 13-16 give a much more detailed description of the two groups of people. What is the significant difference? How did his teaching by parables reveal truth to some and hide it from others?
  
6. Assuming many in the crowd were not believers and were guilty of not seeing, hearing or understanding – perhaps even willfully so – how was his teaching by parables a form of judgment, mercy, election, and grace?
  
7. Read 13:18-23. How does Jesus describe the soils in terms of an individual's response to the Word of God? Which are you? What promise is given to those who do hear and understand? (v. 23)