

STORY-TIME WITH THE KING, PART 3

Matthew 13:31–35, 44–52

As one reads the gospel according to Matthew, a pattern can be identified in how the author, inspired by the Holy Spirit, presents his account of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, alternating between stories *about* Jesus and teachings *of* Jesus. The book opens with the *story* about Jesus's birth and ministry preparation (chs. 1–4) followed by a robust *teaching* on kingdom principles (chs. 5–7). Matthew then records *stories* about Jesus performing claim-authenticating miracles (chs. 8–9) before recounting a *teaching* that prepared his disciples to extend his ministry to Israel (ch. 10). *Story* again comes next with the climactic confrontation between the Lord and the Pharisees (chs. 11–12) leading into an exclusively parabolic *teaching* session before both the crowds and the twelve (ch. 13). It's this third discourse we conclude today, being reminding of Jesus's new teaching method, identifying the mysteries he's presenting, and taking seriously the mission he puts before us.

The METHOD: *How* Jesus Taught About the Kingdom

vv. 11–13, 34–35

The MYSTERIES: *What* Jesus Taught About the Kingdom

1. Apparent insignificance

vv. 31–32

2. Expanding evil

v. 33

3. Hidden purchase

v. 44

4. Unified purchase

vv. 45–46

5. Diverse population

vv. 47–50

The MISSION: *Why* Jesus Taught About the Kingdom

vv. 51–52

- *Know* what you know
- *Grow* what you know
- *Show* what you know