

# Cross

## Fellowship Church

### The Parables of the Kingdom

Mark 4:1-34 | August 5, 2012 | John Crawford

#### The Context of the Parables...

- Jesus has announced and demonstrated the kingdom of God.
  - The kingdom of God is a reference to the reign and rule God here on earth.
  - The kingdom of God is most clearly seen in the first two (Genesis 1-2) and last two chapters (Revelation 21-22) of the Bible.
  - The kingdom of God is a future realization: Jesus will fully consummate the kingdom here on earth when he returns.
  - The kingdom of God is a present reality: Jesus has already inaugurated the kingdom here on earth.
- The peoples mixed reaction to the kingdom of God.
  - The disciples immediately followed Jesus.
  - The crowds were amazed by Jesus, but most refused to submit to Him.
  - Jesus' family thought Jesus was a lunatic.
  - Jewish religious leaders opposed Jesus, conspired to kill him and attributed His kingdom works to the work of the devil.

#### The Purpose of the Parables...

- Jesus used parables to conceal the secret of the kingdom of God from those who have had been eternally condemned to judgment due to the hardness of their heart.
- Jesus used parables to reveal the secret of the kingdom of God to those whose hearts were open and could understand.

#### The Parables of the Kingdom...

- The Parable of the Soils...
  - The meaning of the parable:
    - ▶ The sower is Jesus and the seed is the message of the kingdom.
    - ▶ The soil is the human heart and reveals the different responses to the kingdom.
      - The hard heart.
      - The superficial heart.
      - The full heart.
      - The fruitful heart.
  - The point of the parable:
    - ▶ All hear the message of the kingdom, but not all truly hear the message of the kingdom.
    - ▶ The evidences of truly hearing and accepting the message of the kingdom are endurance and fruitfulness.
- The Parable of the Lamp...
  - The message of the kingdom is hidden from some.
  - The message of the kingdom is meant to be revealed.
- The Parable of the Measure...
  - Those who have insight and understanding into the kingdom will be given more.
  - Those who are hardened and lack understanding, even what they have will be taken from them.
- The Parable of the Growing Seed...
  - The growth of the kingdom is often mysterious.
  - The growth of the kingdom is often hidden.
- The Parable of the Mustard Seed...
  - The kingdom grows from an insignificant beginning to an extravagant end.

## The Application of the Kingdom...

- Truly hear and receive the message of the kingdom.
  - Confidently wait for and put your hope in the kingdom to come.
  - Boldly and urgently proclaim the good news of the kingdom.
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## Welcome to Cross Fellowship Church!

We are grateful that you have come to worship with us today. If you are a first time visitor we are so glad you are here and pray that you feel welcome. If you have any specific questions about our church, the service, sermon or anything else, we would love to talk to you! Feel free to stop by the Welcome Table in the lobby or talk to one of the elders. If you have time we'd also encourage you to complete a Visitor Information Card which is located at the Welcome Table.

### Sudan Mission Trip

If you are interested in learning more about our upcoming mission trip to Sudan (November 4-16) please contact Jared Chasteen.

### Church Membership Class

Just a reminder for those who have signed up for our church membership class. Week 3 continues today at the Crawford's house from 4 to 6pm.

### Discipleship Communities

Discipleship Communities is our fancy name for "small groups." They are one of the primary vehicles at Cross Fellowship Church for developing meaningful relationships, living on mission and growing as a disciple of Jesus. Each group meets during the week on a regular basis in someone's home. If you are interested in visiting a Discipleship Community please stop by the Information Table in the lobby for a list of groups, meeting locations and times or contact Eric Taylor.

### Personal Discipleship Helps

- Daily Bible Reading Plan - If you are looking for a helpful daily Bible reading plan then we strongly recommend and encourage you to check out the following link: [www.scripturestoryline.com](http://www.scripturestoryline.com). It includes a very organized and reasonable reading calendar along with a very helpful daily commentary on the passages you read each day.
- Scripture Memory - There are many different approaches and systems that are available for memorizing verses. One that we find particularly helpful are the "Fighter Verses" from Desiring God Ministries. You can access them from the following link: [www.fighterverses.com](http://www.fighterverses.com).

### Contact Us

If you have any questions about our church or would like any further information please contact us:

Cross Fellowship Church	Email: <a href="mailto:info@crossfellowshipchurch.org">info@crossfellowshipchurch.org</a>
P.O. Box 13512	Twitter: @crosskc
Overland Park, KS 66282-3512	Facebook: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/CrossFellowshipChurch">www.facebook.com/CrossFellowshipChurch</a>
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### Elders

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