

The Kingdom Parables  
Introduction  
Matthew 11-13 (page 682)

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The context of Matthew 13 can be summarized by:

1. The arrival of the long awaited kingdom is near  
(Matt 3:2; 4:17; 10:7)
  - John the Baptist said so (3:2)
  - Jesus said so (4:17)
  - The disciples said so (10:7)
2. National Israel has rejected Jesus as their Messiah (11:1-12:48)
  - The people of Israel rejected:
    - John's testimony (11:7-19)
    - Jesus' works (11:20-24)
    - Jesus' invitation (11:25-30)
  - The leaders of Israel rejected:
    - Jesus' authority (12:1-21)
    - Jesus' works (12:22-36)
    - Jesus' words (12:37-45)

3. Jesus acknowledges their rejection and moves forward with God's redemptive plan for the world (12:46-49)
  - It is not about a physical, but a spiritual relationship through faith (12:46-49)
  - It is no longer a throne but a cross that is anticipated (16:21; 17:12)

Jesus spoke in parables from this point in order to:

1. reveal the truth to those who were responsive to His message (13:12a)
2. hide the truth from those who were unresponsive to His message (13:12b)

***Taking it in....***

How do I respond to the Word of God? Do I ignore the testimony of the Scriptures? Do I reject their authority in my life? Do I surrender myself to the truths that they declare? \_\_\_\_\_

Am I dedicated to "seek first the kingdom of God" and establish that as my highest priority? How do I do that? \_\_\_\_\_

Does Jesus have rule over my life? In what ways do I allow Him to rule over my life? In what ways do I refuse or hinder His rule in my life? \_\_\_\_\_