

### **Matt 13: Seeing the Kingdom Discussion Questions**

1. What's been something that's really important to understand for you (maybe at work, or in life)?
2. Recap what's happened in Matthew's Gospel so far

#### **Read Matt 13:1-9 & 18-23**

3. How do each of the soils (give concrete examples)
  - a. Prepare us for different responses to Jesus
  - b. Provide warnings for us
    - i. Think particularly about what the "worries of this life" and "the deceitfulness of wealth" are for us today
    - ii. Why are they so dangerous?
4. What does it practically look like for WHCC and for you individually to be the good soil?

#### Bonus Question

- How do verses **10-15** & **34-35** help us understand the purpose of Jesus' parables (It's worth keeping in mind the context of **Isa 6**, i.e. a time of judgment for Israel, but through this judgment God will bring salvation to the remnant)

#### **Read Matt 13:24-30 & 36-43 (if you're keen also: 13:47-50)**

5. How do we hold this parable in tension with Jesus' prayer "*your kingdom come*"? (Matt 6:10)
6. How is this parable a comfort and challenge to us today?

#### **Read Matt 13:31-33 & 44-46**

7. How do the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast give us encouragement when Christianity in NZ is statistically declining?
8. In what ways are we in danger of forgetting the preciousness of the kingdom (vv44-46)?
  - a. What can we do to make sure we grow in our appreciation of its value?