

What's going on as people hear the words of Jesus?

1. The long-awaited kingdom is being revealed (v35 – see Psalm 78:1-8)
2. An amazing privilege is being dispensed (v11, 16-17)
3. An age-old pattern is being repeated (v13-15)
4. An awesome judgement is taking place (v12)

Application – *be careful how you hear (v9,v18-23)*

- The shut heart
- The shallow heart
- The choked heart
- A changed heart

**Matthew's Gospel**  
**(2) REVELATION AND RESPONSE – chs 10-17**

9:36-10:4 – How Jesus sees the situation

Situation: *shepherd-less sheep*  
Situation: *plentiful harvest*

Response: *compassion*  
Response: *pray for workers*  
Immediate action: *Commission the Twelve*

10:4-42 – Mission Briefing for the Twelve (for immediate and, from v16, later mission)  
**[2<sup>ND</sup> MAJOR TEACHING UNIT]**

Principles for Mission but *be careful!*

- e.g. v5-6
- c.f. v9-10 with Luke 22:35-36

Note warning of:

- rejection during the immediate mission (v11-16)
- persecution during later mission (v17-25)
  - so don't give way to fear of men; fear and trust God (v26-33)
- division created by the gospel word (v34-36)
  - so put Jesus first, being confident that loyalty to Jesus will be rewarded (v37-42)

Ch 11 and 12 – Increasing Polarization

- Confusion – Is Jesus the one who was to come? (11:3; 12:23)
- Increasing hostility from the Pharisees (12:14; 12:24)
- Lack of repentance → threats of judgment (11:20-24; 12:39-45)
- The truth being revealed to 'little children' who join the 'family' of Jesus (11:25-27; 12:49)

Questions: 1. Why is there confusion about Jesus, if he really is the Messiah?  
2. Why is the response so mixed?  
3. If following the king seems more about facing hostility and suffering, what's the point?  
4. When will judgment fall on the unrepentant who oppose the king?

13:1-52 – Parables of the Kingdom  
**[3<sup>RD</sup> MAJOR TEACHING UNIT]**

13:53- 17:27 – Developing Division

Key issue: the identity of Jesus

- Confusion (13:54-56; 14:1-2)
- Revelation (14:13-36)
- Blindness (15:14, 16)
- Dullness (15:16)
- Insight (15:21-28)
- Further Revelation (15:29-39)
- Stubborn unbelief (16:1-4)
- Dullness (16:5-12)
- Confession – You are the Christ, the Son of the living God! (16:6)
  - Explained by 16:17

*(Whole section explained by chapter 13)*

New Teaching: the church and the cross

- *I will build my church* (16:18-19)
  - Built by Jesus
  - *His* community of ‘called out’ people
- Stronger than death (18b)
- Built on the foundation of the Apostles (v18)
  - understanding of Christ
- Entered through the teaching of the Apostles (v19a)
- Living under the authority of the Apostles (v19b)

But first they must understand the cross...

- Not yet ready to teach about Christ (16:20)
- Need teaching from the Son (16:21-28)
- Confirmed by the Father (17:1-13)
- Still they have with much to learn (17:10-27)

13:1-52 – Parables of the Kingdom

A *chiastic* structure – simplest from **A-B-A'** (named after the Greek letter *chi* -  $\chi$ )

**A** Introductory parable: the sower (1-9)

*Interlude: the purpose of parables (10-17)*

*explanation of the parable of the sower (18-23)*

**B** Parable of the weeds (24-30)

**C** Parable of the mustard seed (31-32)

**C'** Parable of the yeast and the dough (33)

*Interlude: the purpose of parables (34-35)*

*explanation of the parable of the weeds (36-43)*

**D** Parable of the hidden treasure (44)

**D'** Parable of the pearl of great value (45-46)

**B'** Parable of the net (47-50)

**A'** Concluding parable: the householder (51-53)