



PUZZLING PARABLES

THE HIDDEN TREASURE

STEP 1

READ MATTHEW 13:3-9.

The place where God's word produces results is the good soil; the "fertile heart." Evaluate your heart condition today. Are you OPEN to hear from God? Are you AVAILABLE? Are you PRESENT and AWARE of God in your life? Are you FORGIVEN? Have YOU forgiven? Are you practicing OBEDIENCE?

Think about how play dough feels when you first open a new container. Depending on your creative abilities, you can take that play dough and mold it in to almost anything! Is your heart like that? SOFT in God's hands? How would having a heart like that further God's ability to get His way in all areas of your life?

STEP 2

LOVE GOD – LOVE PEOPLE... Allow God's kingdom to have its way in our attitudes and actions toward others. **READ MATTHEW 13:24-30.** What are we to do with the "weeds?" In the weediness of our lives and the lives of others, how does God call us to respond?

① LOVE

② FORGIVENESS

③ COMPASSION

④ SERVICE

⑤ LOVING CORRECTION

Are you allowing God's kingdom to spill out from your own life into the lives of others? **ISAIAH 42:3** says (about Jesus) "A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out."

Is there someone in your life that you've judged, maybe even declared hopeless? Confess that to God, receive His forgiveness and ask Him to use you to show love to that person. Are there areas in your own life [weeds] that you need to deal with? God is able to transform the weeds to wheat.

STEP 3

READ MATTHEW 6:9-15. Look at verse 10 again. According to this verse, what is Jesus teaching us to pray for? God's kingdom [HIS will] on earth... today... like it is in heaven. Pray that THIS world today would be more like God created it to be - that you and I would be more like we were created to be. The kingdom of God is life, health, wholeness, beauty, generosity, freedom, compassion, love.

Are those things you desire? Through the Puzzling Parable series, we've learned that the kingdom of God is "anywhere God gets His way." Do you trust God's desires for you? Where in your life are you not trusting His will? In which part of your life are you trusting Him? Celebrate that.

STEP 4

Just knowing is not enough. Living differently NOW is what Jesus invites us to do. In order to be a pilot, the FAA requires you to spend many hours in a class room. But you don't receive a pilot's license until you've logged 40-60 hours in the cockpit. Even the FAA realizes that doing AND experiencing is where real knowledge comes from. Individually, as we live out what we know and are obedient to God, the kingdom of God begins working in our lives and the lives of those around us.

STEP 5

READ THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT -- MATTHEW 5 - 7.

Really read it.

Identify one or two character traits you can move past knowing and begin to put into play in your life.

