

50+ Ministry

+ + +

60+ *Legacies*

Sunday Class

+ + +

All Saints Presbyterian Church
Austin, TX

Led by Rev. Craig Chapman
cchapman@allsaintsaustin.org

Kingdom Parables

Understanding & Applying

All Saints Presbyterian Church

+ + +

Austin, TX

Spring-Summer 2025

Taught by Rev. Craig Chapman

50+60+ Schedule – 2025

Songs of Praise

Prayer & Scripture

“Kingdom Parables”

50+60+ Schedule – 2025

June

- Fri, 6/6 – **Summer Social** – 6:30 PM at Betty & Jerry Hoods' home. BYOB + Appetizer or Dessert. Registration is now open.
- Sun, 6/29 – **Last Class** until 8/17.

July

- Fri, 7/4 – **Patriotic Pool Party** – 6:30 PM at the Chapmans' home. With Unidos & Young Adults. BYOB + Appetizer or Dessert. Burgers & hot dogs provided.

August

- Fri, 8/8 – **Dinners for 7+** – 6:30-9:30 PM. Various locations.
- Sun, 8/17 – **Class Resumes** – 10:15 AM in Room 210.

50+60+ Schedule – 2025

September

- Sun, 9/21 – **Fall Kick-off Lunch** – 11:45 AM-2:45 PM, at The Chapmans' home.

October

- Mon, 10/13 – **Supper & Swing Dancing** – 7-9 PM. Big Band Bash at the Lakeway Activity Center. BYOB & Food.

November

- Fri, 11/7 – **Chili Cook-Off** – 6-9 PM at All Saints. BYOB + Chili, Cornbread, &/or Cobbler. Prizes in each category.

December

- Fri, Dec 5 – **Christmas Party** – 6:30-9:30 PM. BYOB + Appetizer or Dessert.

SPRING ... or ... SUMMER ? ? ?

SPRING ... or ... SUMMER ???



SPRING ... or ... SUMMER ???



SPRING ... or ... SUMMER ? ? ?



SPRING ... or ... SUMMER ? ? ?



STILL ... SPRING !



A bright sun shining through clouds with rays of light, symbolizing ascension.

ASCENSION SUNDAY

BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE

Charitie Lees Smith

BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE

Charitie Lees Smith



BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE

Charitie Lees Smith



Hebrews 4:14-16

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ... one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE

Charitie Lees Smith

Isaiah 49:16

*Behold, I have
engraved you
on the palms
of my hands;
your walls are
continually
before me.*



Hebrews 4:14-16

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ... one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE

Charitie Lees Smith

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea:
A great High Priest whose name is Love,
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands,
My name is written on his heart.
I know that while in Heav'n he stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart. (2x)

When Satan tempts me to despair and tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see him there, who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free,
For God the just is satisfied to look on him and pardon me,
To look on him and pardon me.

BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE

Charitie Lees Smith

Behold him there, the risen Lamb,
My perfect spotless righteousness,
The great unchangeable I AM,
The King of glory and of grace.
One with himself I cannot die;
My soul is purchased by his blood.
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ, my Savior and my God.
With Christ, my Savior and my God.

50+60+ Schedule – 2025

Songs of Praise

Prayer & Scripture

“Kingdom Parables”

Psalm 121:5-8

*The LORD watches over you—
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.*

*The LORD will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;
the LORD will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.*

(ESV)

New City Catechism

Part 1—God, Creation & Fall, Law

Q3: How many persons are there in God?

A3: *There are three persons in the one true and living God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are the same in substance, equal in power and glory.*

- 2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

- Kevin DeYoung

When you have a triune God, you have the eternality of love. ... If you have a god who is not three persons, he has to create a being to love, to be an expression of his love. But Father, Son, and Holy Spirit existing in eternity have always had this relationship of love. So love is not a created thing.

6/1/25

- 4/6 – Because You Asked #41 – Debts vs. Trespasses
- 4/13 – Because You Asked #42 – Kingdom of God
- 4/20 – Easter (no class)
- 4/27 – Because You Asked #43 – Resurrection & Ascension
- 5/4–New Series: *Kingdom Parables*–Mt 6.25-33—Birds & Lilies
- 5/11 – (Mother's Day) – Guest Teacher: Daniel Pope
- 5/18 – Kingdom Parables - Mt 13.24-43—Wheat, Seed & Leaven
- 5/25 – Memorial Day Weekend (No Class)
- **6/1–*Kingdom Parables-Mt 13.24-43-Wheat, Seed, Leaven 2 &...***
- 6/8 – *Kingdom Parables*
- 6/15 – (Craig away) Guest Teacher: Bo White
- 6/22 – *Kingdom Parables*
- 6/29 – *Kingdom Parables* – Last 60+ Legacies Class until 8/17

Kingdom Parables

- **Kingdom of God**

= a realm, not like on earth

= wherever God's light and royal will is reigning

= includes the Church, but it's more

- **Parable**

(Greek: *parabole*)

= compare = metaphor = picture = illustration

= concrete depiction of a cosmic truth

= a story with a symbolic, spiritual meaning



Kingdom Parables

- Jesus says, “... *the kingdom of heaven* is like ...” at least 10 times in Matthew, often when introducing a *parable...*
- 13:24 – ... a man who sowed good seed (Weeds & Wheat)
13:31 – ... a mustard seed ...
13:33 – ... leaven ...
- 13:44 – ... treasure hidden in a field ...
13:45 – ... a merchant seeking fine pearls ...
13:47 – ... a net ...
- 18:23-35 – ... king settling accounts (Unforgiving Servant)



Kingdom Parables

- Jesus says, “... *the kingdom of heaven* is like ...” at least 10 times in Matthew, often when introducing a *parable...*
 - 20:1-16 – ... *a landowner* ... (Workers in the Vineyard)
 - 22:1-14 – ... *a king giving a wedding banquet* ...
 - 25:1-13 – ... *ten virgins* ...
 - 25:14-30 – ... *a man going on a journey* ... (Talents)



Kingdom Parables

Matthew 13:24-43

- 13:24-30 – Wheat & Weeds
- 13:31-35 – Mustard Seed & Leaven
- 13:36-43 – Jesus' Explanation



Kingdom Parables

Matthew 13:24-43

²⁴ He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵ but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷ And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ ²⁸ He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹ But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, “Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.”’”

³¹ He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. ³² It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”



Kingdom Parables

Matthew 13:24-43

³³ He told them another parable. “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.”



³⁴ All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable. ³⁵ This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet: “I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world.”

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷ He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴² and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear

Kingdom Parables

Matthew 13:24-43

- 13:24-30 – Wheat & Weeds
- 13:31-35 – Mustard Seed & Leaven
- 13:36-43 – Jesus' Explanation
- Unifying Theme
The work of Christ and his Church may begin small, with seemingly little promise, but not only will it survive, it will grow explosively, and eventually reap an unimaginable harvest
 - Matthew 16:18 ... versus ... Mormon Church



- 13:24-30 – Wheat & Weeds
 - ‘weed’ (Greek: ‘zizanian’) = *darnel* = poisonous weed; appeared much like wheat
 - Are Master’s instructions to his Servants surprising?
 - Can Christians and non-Christians appear similar?

Matthew 13:24-43—*The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the **weeds** appeared also. ... ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ ... ‘An enemy has done this.’ ... ‘Then **do you want us to go and gather them?**’ ... ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let **both grow together until the harvest**, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, “Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.”*



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 - Are Master’s instructions to his Servants surprising?
 - Can Christians and non-Christians appear similar?
 - Church history shows a tendency to “Christianize” society (coerce or legislate)
 - Jesus is willing to let good and evil coexist side by side
 - Says: to be a Christian, you

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- 13:24-30 – Wheat & Weeds
 - Dangers the Master seeks to avoid here

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- 13:24-30 – Wheat & Weeds
 - Dangers the Master seeks to avoid here
 - Premature Wheat Removal...
 - ...*A Saul who's really a Paul*
 - Application for us today?

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 - Dangers the Master seeks to avoid here
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 - A Saul who's really a Paul
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 - “Holy Huddles” = “Christian Tribes” = Removing ourselves from: ...government...journalism...education...arts...film
 - Why this tendency?

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 - Why this tendency?
 - Small minority often assumes no impact on large majority

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Kingdom Parables

- 13:31-35 – Mustard Seed & Leaven

- Common occupation for:

- a man: _____
- a woman: _____

Matthew 13:31-35

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“The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. ³² It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

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Kingdom Parables

- 13:31-35 – Mustard Seed & Leaven

- Common occupation for:

- a man: _____
- a woman: _____

- Mustard seed

- smallest then, not today
- □ 4-5 feet tall
- Ezek 17.23: birds ~ Gentiles

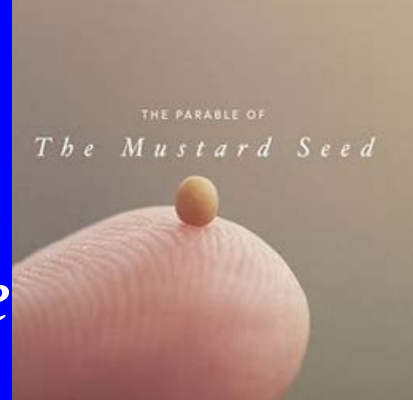
- Leaven

- 3 measures – fed > 100
- Mk 8.15: yeast of Pharisees
- 1 Cor 5:6 ~ ‘one bad apple...’

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Kingdom Parables

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- Promising growth from unpromising start

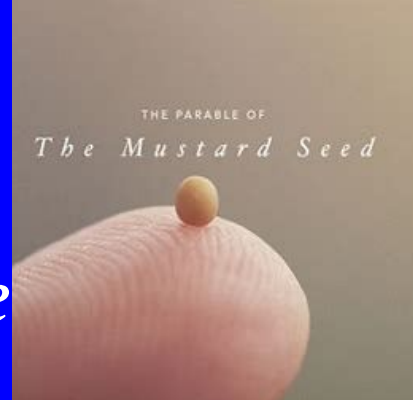
- Examples

Matthew 13:31-35

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Kingdom Parables

- 13:35-43 – Jesus' Explanation

Matthew 13:36-43—*Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ...*
*“The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The **field is the world**, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will **gather out of his kingdom** all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom...*

Kingdom Parables

- 13:35-43 – Jesus’ Explanation
 - The **field** where the seed is sown *and* the weeds are gathered includes the **world** and Christ’s **kingdom**
 - Misinterpretation:
A mixture of unbelievers & believers in the **church only**

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Kingdom Parables

- 13:35-43 – Jesus' Explanation

- The **field** where the seed is sown *and* the weeds are gathered includes the **world** and Christ's **kingdom**
- Misinterpretation:
A mixture of unbelievers & believers in the **church only**
- Jesus:
A mixture in the world also
- God's Kingdom reign includes true Christians in his Church ... and more! ...
His Cosmic Created Universe!
- So what ... for Monday?

Matthew 13:36-43—*Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.* ...

*“The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The **field is the world**, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will **gather out of his kingdom** all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom...*

Kingdom Parables

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So what ... for Monday?

- God's Kingdom is much bigger than the Church
- God's kingly power operates inside and outside the Church
- Be about God's Kingdom interests ...
... not just our parochial interests
- Trust God to extend his Kingdom thru us ...
... everywhere ...
- Live in the confidence that it's going to happen ...
... and we get to participate



Next Class – June 8, 2025

Prayer