

# Stepping Deeper Into the Kingdom

Matthew 13:1-30, 36-43 (pew Bible pp. 901-2)

## I. Remember that the primary message of Jesus was about the Kingdom.

Pastor Tom defines the kingdom as:

**the kingdom of God is the reign and rule of God over every aspect of our lives prior to his complete reign over the cosmos.**

## II. DEEPENING THE SOIL OF OUR LIVES FOR THE KINGDOM

A. Matthew 13 teaches some kingdom truths.

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ mind which denies kingdom \_\_\_\_\_.
2. A shallow heart lacks \_\_\_\_\_.
3. An overcrowded life lacks \_\_\_\_\_.
4. A receptive life produces \_\_\_\_\_.

## III. DEEPENING OUR KINGDOM PRESENCE IN THE WORLD

B. Matthew 13:24-30 reminds us that God's work has to co-exist alongside the work of Satan.

## IV. DEEPENING OUR KINGDOM RELATIONSHIPS

C. The church in Rome was having a real struggle at its church suppers. The question was about whether or not you could eat meat. Read Romans 14 to understand the issue involved. Paul's conclusion is that righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit - at the centre of church life.

D. Relationships in the church are crucial for the health of the church and the glory of God. We need to ask ourselves 3 questions:

1. Are we aware of holding a grudge against anyone else at VCBC?
2. Are you aware of anything that someone has against you?
3. If you are married, are you aware of any unresolved issue or struggle in your marriage?

E. The kingdom demands that we have good and clear relationships.

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## I. Getting Started

1. What was the most challenging or thought-provoking truth you heard in this message? Why was that?
2. Has this message helped you to think about the Kingdom of God in a different and perhaps new way?

## II. Digging Deeper

3. In what ways does the parable of the sower describe your life, or different aspects of your life:
  - A. Closed
  - B. Shallow
  - C. Overcrowded
  - D. Receptive

Read Matthew 13:24-30.

4. What discourages you about what is happening in our city and world right now?
5. Do you think it really makes any difference to try and live like a Christian?
6. Do you ever feel like giving up ... and just waiting for Jesus to come back?

Read Romans 14.

7. Do you understand the issue which is at the heart of this church disagreement? What was it all about?
8. How does Paul speak into their church struggle? What is his solution?
9. What do churches fight over today? How does Romans 14 speak into our struggles?

## III. Applying God's Truth

10. If we are really serious about stepping deeper into the kingdom, what will that mean for us?