

## Study Notes: Principles of the Parable

### 1. Have Patience with the Plan

- Trust that God has a plan and is unfolding it.
- You can choose to fight it or join it.
- This is an ongoing choice to let go of control and acknowledge God's control.
- It's one thing to say God is working, and another to live it.
- **Isaiah 55:8-9**
  - “Indeed, my plans are not like your plans, and my deeds are not like your deeds, for just as the sky is higher than the earth, so my deeds are superior to your deeds and my plans superior to your plans.
- **Romans 8:28**
  - And we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.
- **Proverbs 3:5-6**
  - Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding. Acknowledge him in all your ways, and he will make your paths straight.
- **Psalms 37:1-7**
  - Do not fret because of evildoers; do not be envious of the wicked, for they will wither quickly like grass and fade like the green herb. Trust in the Lord and do what is right; settle in the land and be a faithful shepherd. Find your delight in the Lord, and he will give you your heart's desires. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do it. He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, your justice like the noonday sun. Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him; do not fret over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil plans.

### 2. Cultivate, Not Condemn

- The disciples wanted a kingdom established by force.
- The reality is that the kingdom gathers people in, it doesn't push them out.
- We are quick to label and judge people.

- Don't be a gatekeeper of the kingdom, but a cultivator.
- We must treat everyone as if they are wheat, not knowing if we are cultivating a weed or a true child of the Kingdom.
- **Luke 14:21-24**
  - So the slave came back and reported this to his master. Then the master of the household was furious and said to his slave, 'Go out quickly to the streets and alleys of the city, and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' Then the slave said, 'Sir, what you instructed has been done, and there is still room.' So the master said to his slave, 'Go out to the highways and country roads and urge people to come in, so that my house will be filled. For I tell you, not one of those individuals who were invited will taste my banquet!'"
- **Romans 2:1**
  - Therefore you are without excuse, whoever you are, when you judge someone else. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, are doing the very same things.
- **1 Corinthians 13:4-7**
  - Love is patient, love is kind, it is not envious. Love does not brag, it is not puffed up. It is not rude, it is not self-serving, it is not easily angered or resentful. It is not glad about injustice, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

### 3. Fixing Your Eyes on Hope

- Life can be dissatisfying, and we want Jesus to fix it now.
- We can also become too comfortable and lose sight of our final destination.
- We must fix our eyes on the hope of the kingdom.
- Looking at the kingdom orders your immediate steps.
- **Matthew 14:43**
  - Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. The one who has ears had better listen!
- **Hebrews 12:1-2**
  - Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, we must get rid of every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and run with endurance the race set out for us, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the champion who

initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy set before him he endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

- **Philippians 3:20-21**

- For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humble condition into the likeness of his glorious body by the power that enables him to subject all things to himself.