

## INTRODUCTION

- \* Last week, we considered Scriptures regarding "The Kingdom of God." Jesus declared that His purpose was to share the good news of the Kingdom and then called upon His disciples to share that message as well. He also declared that this Kingdom was not just one that was, or would be, physical. Rather, the ultimate Kingdom of God is spiritual, and begins in the heart. Allegiance to God begins in the heart by expressing childlike faith and trust in the testimony which God has declared in His Word. Being part of God's Kingdom therefore means that an individual is declaring - by faith - fidelity, allegiance and obedience to YHWH as the One True King of the Universe.
- \* When one chooses to believe - by faith - in YHWH and His redemptive plan they become citizens of His Kingdom and are "born-again." Just as they were born physically, they are now born spiritually.
- \* Today, Jesus will share an important detail of those who are truly part of the Kingdom of God ... having ears they will hear the message of God and they will heed what they hear! To "hear" and to "keep" - Shema (שמע) and Shamar (שמר) - is a very basic Jewish teaching. (cf. Deuteronomy 6:4-12)

## INSTRUCTION

### I. HIS SUPPORTERS (v. 1-3)

- A. They F\_\_\_\_\_ Followed in the Footsteps of the Messiah
- B. They F\_\_\_\_\_ Participated in the Ministry of the Messiah

### II. HIS TEACHING (v. 4-18)

#### A. The Four Soils

1. THE S\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 5, 11)
2. THE S\_\_\_\_\_
  - a. The Hard Ground (v. 5, 12)
  - b. The Rocky Ground (v. 6, 13)
  - c. The Thorny Ground (v. 7, 14)
  - d. The Good Ground (v. 8, 15)
3. THE S\_\_\_\_\_ (cf. Hebrews 3:14; John 15:1-6; Matthew 7:15-20)

#### B. The Lamp

1. THE I\_\_\_\_\_ (cf. Luke 11:33)
2. THE I\_\_\_\_\_
  - \* cf. Matthew 6:2-6; 1 Peter 3:1-4
  - \* cf. Luke 12:2-3; Romans 2:15-16; 1 Corinthians 4:5
  - \* cf. 1 Corinthians 14:23-25
3. THE I\_\_\_\_\_

### III. HIS FAMILY

- A. The A\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 19-20)
- B. The A\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 21; cf. John 8:47; 10:25-28)

## INTROSPECTION

- \* Are you a citizen of the Kingdom of God? Does your life bear witness to your answer?
- \* Are you a hearer-only ... deceiving yourself, or one who remains in the Word and does the Work (James 1:22-25)?
- \* HE WHO HAS EARS TO HEAR ... LET HIM HEAR!
- \* Is there a need to change the way you think and therefore the way you act?

## INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- \* Read Matthew 24:4-13 and Hebrews 10:19-25. How can we stir up, or stimulate, one another spiritually ... in order that our love for Christ does not grow cold?