

## Matthew 13: Parables on the Gathering

Reference	Parable	The Gathering
vv. 3–9, 18–23	<b>The Sower</b> —the seeds grow differently depending on the ground they fall on.	People react differently to the gospel message. Their willingness to accept the truth determines whether they are gathered. Joseph Smith taught that “this parable was spoken to demonstrate the effects that are produced by the preaching of the word; and we believe that it has an allusion directly, to the commencement, or the setting up of the Kingdom” ( <i>Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith</i> , 97).
vv. 24–30	<b>The Wheat and Tares</b> —an enemy plants tares in a wheat field. The householder tells his servants to let the wheat and tares grow together until the harvest.	For a time the righteous and the wicked live together. But in the last days the righteous will be gathered and the wicked will be destroyed. Joseph Smith taught that if the righteous and wicked are separated too soon, “you will destroy the wheat, or the Church, with the tares; therefore it is better to let them grow together until the harvest, or the end of the world” ( <i>Teachings</i> , 98).
vv. 31–32	<b>The Mustard Seed</b> —the smallest seed grows into the largest of herbs.	The kingdom of God begins small but grows. Joseph Smith taught: “Let us take the Book of Mormon, which a man took and hid in his field, securing it by his faith, to spring up in the last days. . . . It is truth, and it has sprouted and come forth out of the earth, and righteousness begins to look down from heaven, and God is sending down His powers, gifts and angels, to lodge in the branches thereof” ( <i>Teachings</i> , 98).
v. 33	<b>The Leaven</b> —a small amount of yeast in three measures of flour grows until it leavens all the dough.	The Church will grow until it can benefit the entire world. Joseph Smith taught: “It may be understood that the Church . . . has taken its rise from a little leaven that was put into three witnesses. Behold, how much this is like the parable! It is fast leavening the lump, and will soon leaven the whole” ( <i>Teachings</i> , 100).
v. 44	<b>Hidden Treasure</b> —a man sells all he has to buy a field with a hidden treasure.	The righteous find the truth and do whatever it takes to gather to it. Joseph Smith applied this to gathering to Missouri: “The Saints work after this pattern. See the Church . . . , selling all that they have, and gathering themselves together unto a place that they may purchase for an inheritance, that they may be together and bear each other’s afflictions in the day of calamity” ( <i>Teachings</i> , 101).
vv. 45–46	<b>Pearl of Great Price</b> —a merchant sells all he has to buy the most valuable pearl.	The righteous gather after much searching. “The Saints again work after this example. See men traveling to find places for Zion and her stakes or remnants, who, when they find the place for Zion, or the pearl of great price, straightway sell that they have, and buy it” ( <i>Teachings</i> , 102).
vv. 47–50	<b>The Fish Net</b> —fishers catch all kinds of fish in their net, and they separate them later.	The Church gathers all kinds of people at first. At the end of the world the righteous are separated from the wicked. “For the work of this pattern, behold the seed of Joseph, spreading forth the Gospel net upon the face of the earth, gathering of every kind, that the good may be saved in vessels prepared for that purpose, and the angels will take care of the bad. So shall it be at the end of the world” ( <i>Teachings</i> , 102).
v. 52	<b>New and Old Treasures</b> —a righteous scribe brings out both old and new treasures.	The Lord uses old and new scriptures to gather His children. “For the works of this example, see the Book of Mormon coming forth out of the treasure of the heart. Also the covenants given to the Latter-day Saints, also the translation of the Bible [the Joseph Smith Translation]—thus bringing forth out of the heart things new and old” ( <i>Teachings</i> , 102).