



RESPONSES TO THE MESSAGE OF THE KINGDOM

In our last study we saw that there were different responses to the message that Jesus preached about the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus knew this would happen, and He told a parable that described these different responses. It is the Parable of the Sower and the Seed in Matthew 13:1-23.



The hard path was like the _____



The rocky soil was like the _____



The thorny ground was like the _____



The good soil was like the _____

5. RESPONSE OF THE DISCIPLES: _____

Matthew 14:25-33

What was the response of the disciples to this miracle? V33 _____

The Jews had been taught to worship God alone. This was the first commandment. Yet the disciples had come to realise that Jesus was the Son of God and they worshipped Him. The more we know Him, the deeper our worship will become.

What were the events that made the disciples realise who Jesus was?

V25 _____ v29 _____ V32 _____

Jesus only performed this miracle in the presence of His disciples. The Pharisees never saw it. Nor did the crowds. They did not believe in Him. The more we believe, the more we see!

2. RESPONSE OF SIMON PETER: _____

Matthew 16:13-20

Who did the people think Jesus was? V14 _____

Who did Peter think Jesus was? V16 _____

MEANING OF PETER'S CONFESSION Matthew 16:16-17

The Christ - Peter believed Jesus was the Messiah, the 'Anointed One', who had been promised long ago by the Old Testament prophets.

Son of God - He also believed Jesus was divine, that He was God in flesh.

This was an amazing answer. Jesus showed him that he knew this because 'it has been revealed to him by God.' See v17. Let's be thankful that God has revealed this to us too. We are blessed, just like Peter! When we share with others about Jesus we need to pray, as we cannot convince anyone about who Jesus is. However the Holy Spirit can.

POWER OF PETER'S CONFESSION Matthew 16:18-19

Jesus responded to Peter's confession with some wonderful promises about the Kingdom of Heaven.



What do you think is the meaning of these verses? V18-19



How can we be more effective in using the keys of the Kingdom?

There was tremendous power in Peter's confession. It says in Romans 10:9, "If you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." At this time Jesus had not yet been crucified, but Peter made the confession that Jesus was Lord. Anyone who makes this confession from his heart enters the Kingdom of Heaven.

When we enter the Kingdom we receive keys, or authority to act on behalf of the King. Are we using those keys?