Living Hope
Christian Reformed Church
Belong • Believe • Bless

Sermon Questions

June 14, 2026.

Sermon Discussion Questions (Matthew 13: 1-23)

1. Mary and the brothers of Jesus came to see Him, because according to Mark 3:21, they thought he was out of his mind. Looking at Jesus' reply to the news his family were outside, which surprises you more – the opinion of Mary and his brothers, or the response Jesus made about "family" (Matthew 12: 48-50)? Why?
2. We run into problems with understanding parables when we get stuck on details that are not related to the main point. What are some details in the parable of the sower that could distract from what Jesus was teaching? The farmer sowed seed over the parts of his field that had little to no hope of being productive. How is that a picture of Jesus' ministry up to this point?
3. "Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them." Do you think this is an act of judgment, or simply stating a reality of how life works in general? Tell of an example when you have seen this principle played out. How does the fact that Jesus provided the meaning of the parable to just the disciples demonstrate this principle?
4. If the things that were a "secret" or "mystery" to the people of Jesus's day, are now known to us, do you think parables still serve the purpose of revealing and concealing as they did originally? Why or why not?
5. Read Colossians 1: 24 – 2: 3. Is Paul referring to the same "mystery of the kingdom" as Jesus was? How would you summarize what is "the message (word) of the kingdom" we are to proclaim today? In light of what Paul says, are there ways in which we might see Jesus as not only the "sower" in the parable, but as the "seed" as well?
6. Think about times your response to the gospel has been like one of the four heart types described in verses 18-23 (hard, shallow, distracted, responsive and productive). Share with the group if you are comfortable.