Parables Series

General interpretative comments:

* The parables are focused on Kingdom life and Kingdom ethics.
* They are a speech-act: stories which illicit a response from those who hear them.
* “[the parables] never allow us to remain neutral; they grasp our attention and force us to interact with the presence of the Kingdom in Jesus, either positively or negatively.” – Grant Osborne

Series breakdown:

* Klyne Snodgrass groups the parables thematically. Following his ideas, these parables were chosen to reflect a variety of focus.
* Parables to utilize:
  + **The Sower - Matthew 13:3-23 – Bobby** 
    - My thought is that the Sower should be the first one, as in it Jesus speaks of why He uses parables.
    - Importance of the Word taking root in our lives (Colossians 2:6-7)
    - READY: people of the Word
  + **The Treasure, the Pearl, and the Net - Matthew 13:44-50 – Galen** 
    - The Kingdom is incomparable; it is worth giving up everything else for.
    - Those who have truly “found” the Kingdom will be known
    - READY: people of focus and priorities
  + **The Unforgiving Servant - Matthew 18:23-35 – Luke D** 
    - Grace & Forgiveness for the individual
    - Grace and responsibility in how we interact with others
    - READY: people of generous grace
  + **The Judge, the Pharisee and the Tax Collector - Luke 18:1-14 – Chad** 
    - Stories of Kingdom prayer
    - What does persistence and humility look like in prayer?
    - READY: people of prayer
  + **The Good Samaritan - Luke 10:25-37 – Asa** 
    - Example of true discipleship in action.
    - The greatest commandments lived out
    - READY: people who love others
  + **The Prodigal Son - Luke 15:11-32 – Don** 
    - None are too lost or far gone
    - We must celebrate the “foundness” of those who were lost
    - READY: people who humbly want to see others find Jesus