



Title: Now, But Not Yet

Date: 9-27-09

Series: Matthew

Text: Matthew 13

Synopsis: We Americans don't do well with slow results. We have little tolerance for long wars, long fiscal strategies, long sermons (oops), or long solutions. In short, we want results and we want them now. We want quick wars, quick wealth and quick fixes.

So it was with the Jewish people at the time of Jesus. They were looking for a messiah to finally and decisively deliver them from Roman rule and to bring about victory. They wanted results and they wanted them now.

But Jesus' teaching of the kingdom was quite different than what they wanted. He said that it takes time, like a seedling growing into a tree, like yeast causing bread to rise, like a long lost treasure being found in a field, or like an oyster forming a pearl. He said that you would be able to see the results, but not until the process was complete.

It is as true today as it was then. We live in the tension of God's kingdom being established now but not yet fully realized. It's like getting up in the reality of a new day yet the fog of morning still clouds our vision.