

"The Earthly Kingdom of Jesus Christ"

Part 15

Matthew 12-13

Introduction: Last week in our study of the Kingdom we looked at how the Kingdom offer was removed from the table when the religious leaders accredited the miracles of Jesus to Satan.

Notice Matthew 12:22-24

It was here that the offer was pulled away and the Kingdom was postponed. We see no more offers of the Kingdom after this with the exception of Matthew 24 where Jesus talks about the offer being made in the Tribulation.

With the Kingdom being postponed and the rejection of Jesus Christ by His own people, this then brought about the Mystery Age or the Interim Age. We are not in the Kingdom, but we are in the Mystery Age. We see a picture of this in the parable of Luke 19.

Luke 19:11-15

¹¹ *And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear.*

¹² *He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.*

¹³ *And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.*

¹⁴ *But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us.*

¹⁵ *And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.*

This parable clearly shows the Mystery Age which we live in today. Now I need to clarify something for you. The Interim Age contains the Church Age, and the Interim Age will continue after the church is gone. It started at Pentecost when the church began and it will continue until the return of Jesus Christ at the end of the Tribulation.

We also considered Jesus present ministry in this age. He is not seated on His throne as King, but He is at the right hand of the Father serving as our Great High Priest.

Revelation 3:21-22

²¹ *To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.*

²² *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.*

Jesus is Prophet, Priest and King. He was Prophet at His first coming, He will be King at His second coming at the end of the Tribulation, and today He is Priest serving as our Great Intercessor. This now brings us to our study tonight.

Before we step into the parables of Matthew 13 there are several points we must consider.

The Parables of Matthew 13

1. The Change of Matthew 13.

The placement of Matthew 13 is so very important. Matthew 13 marks a major shift in Matthew's Gospel. In Matthew 1-12 we see Jesus' ministry is focused upon the nation of Israel and the offer of the Kingdom. Then as we come to Matthew 13 there is the shift. Instead of focusing upon the nation Jesus will now focus upon the remnant in Matthew 13-28 because the nation has rejected Him. The purpose for turning to the remnant is because they will be the foundation and the pillars for the church, and they will need to be strengthened for the age that is about to start. In Matthew 1-12 the miracles that Jesus performs are for the nation to prove He is King. The miracles in Matthew 13-28 are for the remnant in order to strengthen their faith for what is yet to come. In Matthew 1-12 Jesus never spoke in parables but He spoke in open discourse this however will change as we get into Matthew 13-28 for in these chapters, we will see the parables. In Matthew 1-12 Jesus does not speak of His death and resurrection but once it is clear that the nation has rejected Him Jesus will openly speak of both in Matthew 13-28.

I want to borrow from Arthur Pink and his view of Matthew 12 as set against Matthew 13. I will not quote him word for word, but I will just borrow his insight to guide us. I want to give you an outline of Matthew 12 to help you to see something very important here.

I. The 3-Fold Miracle

In Matthew 12 we see one of the greatest miracles that Jesus performed up until this time.

Matthew 12:22

²² Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw.

This miracle was really three miracles in one.

II. The Unpardonable Sin

Matthew 12:23

²³ And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David?

²⁴ But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.

²⁵ And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:

²⁶ And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?

²⁷ And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges.

²⁸ But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.

²⁹ Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.

³⁰ He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.

³¹ Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.

³² And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.

The unpardonable sin cannot be committed today because it required Jesus to be in their presence performing miracles.

III. The Desire to see a Sign.

Matthew 12:38-40

³⁸ Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee.

³⁹ But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:

⁴⁰ For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

What Jesus speaks of here is of immense importance. The Jews wanted a sign and Jesus said the only sign they would be given was the resurrection. Just as Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days so Jesus would be in the grave for three days. But there is much more here and I am sure they missed it and so do many people today. In what Jesus said here there was a message of what was about to happen.

When Jonah came out of the belly of the fish did he go to the Gentiles or did he go to the Jews? He went to the Gentiles. This is the very Truth that is spoken of by Jesus here. He would be crucified, and He would be buried but when He was resurrected, He would turn to the Gentiles because He was rejected by His own people.

John 1:11-12

¹¹ He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

¹² But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

Acts 13:45-46

⁴⁵ But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming.

⁴⁶ Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.

Acts 15:12-14

¹² Then all the multitude kept silence, and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them.

¹³ And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me:

¹⁴ Simeon hath declared how **God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.**

IV. The Judgment on the Wicked Generation

Matthew 12:41-42

⁴¹ The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.

⁴² The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.

Because they had rejected their King and they refused to repent and acknowledge the miracles as proof that He was the Son of God as He claimed, they would experience severe judgment.

Matthew 9:2-7

² And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.

³ And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth.

⁴ And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?

⁵ For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk?

⁶ **But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins,** (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.

⁷ And he arose, and departed to his house.

Here we see that Jesus early miracles were to the nation to prove He was who He claimed to be. They still rejected Him and therefore the judgment would come in AD 70 when the Romans would destroy their temple and their city and many of the Jews.

V. The Emptiness of their Religion.

Matthew 12:43-45

⁴³ *When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none.*

⁴⁴ *Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished.*

⁴⁵ *Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.*

The focus of Jesus here is not demon possession. It is all about the spiritual condition of the religious leaders. They used their religion to "sweep their houses" so to speak and when Jesus came He could have filled the emptiness within them but they rejected Him. Therefore they would be in a far worse condition having rejected Him than they were before they had met Him.

Notice the words of a Bible teacher:

"This rejection and opposition of Jesus would leave them much worse off than ever before. This wicked generation — exemplified by the religious leaders who were rejecting Jesus — would find their last state...worse than the first. In large measure they rejected Jesus because He wasn't messianic enough for their taste, in the sense of being a political and military messiah. Yet their thirst for this kind of messiah would lead them to ruin by AD 70."

VI. Breaking Ties with the Jews

Matthew 12:46-50

⁴⁶ *While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him.*

⁴⁷ *Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee.*

⁴⁸ *But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?*

⁴⁹ *And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!*

⁵⁰ *For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.*

Here was the announcement of the breaking of His ties with the Jews who had rejected Him. Whosoever would do the will of the Father would be His brethren. What is the will of the Father?

John 6:40

⁴⁰ *And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.*

Conclusion:

Pink says therefore Matthew 12 and 13 give us the CAUSE and EFFECT. Matthew 12 is the CAUSE of what Jesus gives us in Matthew 13. By the way we shall see that the parables of Matthew 13 will describe what will unfold in this interim age in which we live in. Without a knowledge of these parables we cannot understand what the Lord is doing while the Kingdom is in a state of postponement.