

**"The Earthly Kingdom of Jesus Christ"**

**Part 16**

**Matthew 12-13**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of the Kingdom we looked at the change that takes place in Matthews Gospel as we get to the end of Matthew 12, and we step into Matthew 13. In Matthew 12 the religious leaders accredited the miracles of Jesus to Satan, and this then was a major turning point. This caused the removal of the Kingdom offer. It was now clear that the Jews were rejecting Jesus Christ as their Messiah and King. Therefore the offer of the Kingdom will no longer appear after Matthew 12. The offer of the Kingdom will not be made again until the Tribulation period.

**Matthew 24:7-9, 14**

<sup>7</sup> *For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.*

<sup>8</sup> *All these are the beginning of sorrows.*

<sup>9</sup> *Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.*

<sup>14</sup> *And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*

In Matthew 12 Jesus gave hints as how things were about to change.

**1. The Jews wanted a sign and Jesus pointed to Jonah.**

**Matthew 12:38-40**

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

<sup>39</sup> *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:*

<sup>40</sup> *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.*

The resurrection would be a sign but there was more. When Jonah came out of the fish he went to the Gentiles. This was the message for the religious leaders. They had rejected Jesus as Messiah and King and now He would go to the Gentiles for a bride.

**Notice Matthew 13:1**

Here we see another indication of this Truth. The sea in the Bible often speaks of the Gentile nations.

**Revelation 13:1**

*And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.*

Here we see that the Anti-Christ will rise out of the "sea" or the Gentile nations.

**2. Jesus spoke of the judgment that would come upon the Jews.**

**Matthew 12:41-42**

*<sup>41</sup> 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.*

*<sup>42</sup> 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 of their rejection of Jesus they would experience judgment which would come in AD 70.

**3. The consequence of their rejection of Jesus.**

**Matthew 12:43-45**

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

*<sup>44</sup> 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.*

*<sup>45</sup> 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 Jews would be in a far worse condition having rejected Jesus than they were before they had met Him.

**4. Jesus was breaking His ties with the nation.**

**Matthew 12:46-50**

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

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

<sup>48</sup> But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?

<sup>49</sup> And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!

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

Now we have come to Matthew 13, but there is still much more we need to see before we actually get into the parables. Because Israel rejected Jesus this then led to an interim age which is the age we live in today. The parables of Matthew 13 tells us what life will be like for believers in this interim age. Let us now consider some details about these parables.

**I. The Parables are a Revelation of a Mystery.**

**Notice Matthew 13:11**

These parables are the MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. Notice the words of Pink on the word MYSTERY:

"The eleventh verse of Matthew 13 supplies yet another key, in the word "mysteries of the kingdom of heaven." In Scripture the term "mystery" signifies a Divine secret made known by the Holy Spirit. This is confirmed by what is told us in verse 35, namely, that Christ was here uttering "things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world." Thus, in these parables, Christ was making known that which was outside the scope of O. T. prediction, something which God had not made known to Israel through the prophets. This needs to be carefully noted, for it refutes the popular interpretation of these parables."

**Notice Matthew 13:35**

These parables contain Truths that were NEVER revealed from the foundation of the world. This is very important to understand because there are many people that want to point to the parable of the Mustard Seed and the parable of the Leaven and say these are the fulfillment of Isaiah 11:9.

**Isaiah 11:9**

<sup>9</sup> They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: **for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.**

Now let us look at the parables.

**a. The Mustard Seed**

**Notice Matthew 13:31-32**

Many will teach that this is a picture of Christianity and how it has grown and provided shelter for all who will take refuge in Jesus Christ, thus it is a fulfillment of Isaiah 11:9. The question we need to ask is, "If this is the fulfillment of Isaiah 11:9 then how could it be a mystery that was never revealed from the foundation of the world?"

**b. The Leaven**

**Notice Matthew 13:33**

This parable is often taught that the leaven is the Gospel and its spread through the world. This is also taught that the leaven is the Kingdom spreading through the entire world. This is also taught as the knowledge of the Lord spreading through the world and being the fulfillment of Isaiah 11:9. Again we must raise the same question, "If this is the fulfillment of Isaiah 11:9 then how could it be a mystery that was never revealed from the foundation of the world?"

So, there are those who teach that these parables describe the Kingdom of God on the earth. But we know from the Words of Jesus that everything contained in these parables is Truth that has never before been taught of even revealed. These are the mysteries of the Kingdom. The Kingdom of God on the earth is taught in great detail in the Old Testament.

**II. The Parables are a Revelation of what will happen on Earth while the Kingdom is in a state of Postponement.**

These parables have NOTHING to do with life in the Kingdom. They are here to help us to know what the Lord has been doing over the past two thousand years and will continue to do until Jesus returns at the end of the Tribulation. Let me support this with a few verses.

**Notice Matthew 13:38-43**

Here we see the activity of Satan and how he sows tares among the wheat. We know this cannot be in the Kingdom because of Revelation 20.

**Revelation 20:1-7**

*And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.*

*<sup>2</sup> And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years.*

*<sup>3</sup> And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.*

*<sup>4</sup> And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*

*<sup>5</sup> But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.*

*<sup>6</sup> Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*

*<sup>7</sup> And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison.*

Satan is bound for the entire Kingdom so Matthew 13 cannot be a revelation about what happens in the Kingdom. It is about what is happening NOW.

**Notice Matthew 13:47-50**

Here we see a judgment that will happen, and this will be at the end age or the end of the Tribulation. I believe we can parallel with this Matthew 25.

**Matthew 25:31-34, 41**

<sup>31</sup> *When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:*

<sup>32</sup> *And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:*

<sup>33</sup> *And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.*

<sup>34</sup> *Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

<sup>41</sup> *Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:*

**III. The Parables pertain to Kingdom Heirs.**

**Notice Matthew 13:36-43**

The wheat here are referred to as "children of the Kingdom" in the sense that we are children of God. Now let us notice what Paul says in Romans about being children.

**Romans 8:17**

<sup>17</sup> *And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

As the children of God we are then Kingdom heirs. Some day you and I will inherit the Kingdom with Jesus Christ. The Kingdom is not here today but we are Kingdom heirs who will one day inherit the Kingdom with Jesus Christ. Therefore these parables are here to tell us what to expect spiritually as we wait to inherit the Kingdom.

**IV. Why does Jesus teach this Truth in Parables?**

**Notice Matthew 13:34-35**

1. Jesus spoke in parables to fulfill the Scriptures.

**Psalms 78:1-2**

*Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth.*

<sup>2</sup> *I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old:*

The first reason Jesus spoke in parables was to fulfill the Scriptures. Before Matthew 13 we do not find Him teaching in parables. He did not speak one parable in the Sermon on the Mount. So why did He start here?

**2. To conceal the Truth from the Jews who rejected Him.**

**Notice Matthew 13:10-17**

Here we see that Jesus is revealing Truth to His disciples and He is hiding it from the religious leaders. Why would Jesus hide the Truth from them? First of all let us understand that He hid nothing from them in Matthew 1-12, but now He does. Why? He is revealing Truth to the disciples because they are the remnant that believe, and they will be the pillars of the church and therefore they need strengthened.

He is hiding the Truth from His rejectors out of grace.

**Luke 12:48b**

*For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required:*

**Conclusion:**

Next week we will get into the parables of Matthew 13.