

"The Earthly Kingdom of Jesus Christ"

Part 17

Matthew 13

Introduction: The past two weeks we have been looking at Matthew 12 and 13 in preparation to get into a study of the parables found in Matthew 13. Tonight we shall look at the Parable of the Sower but let me first of all remind you of a few things before we do.

1. What is the purpose of the parables?

These parables were given by the Lord after the offer of the Kingdom was taken off the table for the 1st century Jews. The parables are to help us to understand what to expect in Christianity while the King is in heaven and the Jews await His return to establish His Kingdom. These parables tell us what God has been doing the past 2000 years and will continue to do until Jesus returns to earth.

2. To whom do the Parables pertain?

The parables pertain to the remnant who believed on Jesus. Let us understand that the Jew who would have believed on Jesus Christ as Messiah and King would have wondered where the Kingdom was and what was happening now. These parables would answer their questions. Let us notice what Peter wrote to the Jewish believers under persecution.

2 Peter 1:11, 16-19

¹¹ For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

¹⁶ For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

¹⁷ For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

¹⁸ And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

¹⁹ We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

These believers must have had questions about the Kingdom and that is why Peter wrote these Words. Peter was assuring his readers that the Kingdom was still in God's plan and the Old Testament prophets, and their Words guaranteed that the Kingdom was not canceled.

These parables of Matthew 13 do NOT describe life in the Kingdom, but they describe life in the dispensation we are in today.

3. Why did Jesus teach in parables?

Keep in mind that He spoke in open discourse in Matthew 1-12 but now He will speak in parables.

Notice Matthew 13:10-16

Jesus taught with parables for two reasons:

- a. **To fulfill prophecy.**
- b. **To hide the Truth from the religious leaders.**

The fact that He hid the Truth in parables was all about grace. They rejected Him and they were already accountable for what they heard and seen in Matthew 1-12. Therefore, Jesus hid the Truth from them so they would not be even more accountable and in the end suffer even greater judgment in the Lake of Fire.

Luke 12:48b

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

Now let us get to the parables.

The Parable of the Sower

Notice Matthew 13:1-3

First of all we MUST pay attention to the first Word. Jesus said "BEHOLD." Notice how Mark words it.

Mark 4:3

³ Hearken: *Behold, there went out a sower to sow:*

Mark uses the word "HEARKEN" and therefore Jesus spoke in a way to be sure to grasp the attention of His disciples. Jesus desired to get their attention and our attention. The Parable of the Sower was a story that could have easily been overlooked, but there was

something here that Jesus wanted all His followers to see. This was Truth that had never been reveal at any time in history.

Matthews 13:34-35

³⁴ *All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them:*

³⁵ *That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.*

The fact that a sower went out to sow is very sad considering all that Israel had been given. Based upon what Israel was exposed to it should have read, "A Reaper went out to Reap." For over 1500 years there had been much sowing among the Jews. There was Moses, David, all the prophets in the Old Testament and then when we get to the Gospels there was Jesus and John the Baptist. Israel had been promised so much and all they needed to do was walk in obedience to God's Word and then accept Jesus Christ as their Messiah and King. But instead of producing fruit fit to harvest, they only brought forth sour fruit.

Isaiah 5:1-5

Now will I sing to my wellbeloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill:

² *And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes.*

³ *And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard.*

⁴ *What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes?*

⁵ *And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down:*

Notice Matthew 13:3 again.

The opening of this parable tells us that what Jesus is teaching. It is the introduction of something new. Israel was accustomed to people coming to them not them going out, with the exception of Jonah.

1 Kings 4:29, 30, 34

²⁹ *And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore.*

³⁰ *And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt.*

³⁴ *And there came of all people to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all kings of the earth, which had heard of his wisdom.*

1 Kings 10:23-24

²³ *So king Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth for riches and for wisdom.*

²⁴ *And all the earth sought to Solomon, to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart.*

In these verses we see that all the kings of the earth came to hear Solomon. They also came to see the temple and all its splendor for they knew that the God of Israel was manifest there in the Shekinah Glory. But in Matthew 13 Jesus is introducing something new in which a sower will go out. When Israel finally gets to the Kingdom, she will again be a place where people come and see.

Isaiah 2:2-3

² *And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.*

³ *And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.*

This tells us right away that these parables are not the details concerning living in the Kingdom. Now let us get back to the parable. We are not left on our own to interpret this parable for Jesus explains it to His disciples.

Notice Matthew 13:18-23

As we start into this parable, we see right away the different soils which the Word of the Kingdom will fall upon. The "Word of the Kingdom" here is the Gospel for without faith in the Gospel a person cannot be born again which is required for entrance into the Kingdom. There are those who teach that the Word of the Kingdom here is actually the Kingdom going out and entering into the hearts of the people. This cannot be true because the Kingdom does not enter into people, but people enter into the Kingdom at the end of the tribulation.

Matthew 25:34

³⁴ *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:*

1. The Opposition

Notice Matthew 13:19

Right away we see opposition to the Gospel. Those who do not grasp the Gospel when it is preached then have the Seed of the Gospel stolen from their hearts. Satan and his demonic spirits are able to steal away the seed of the Gospel that is sowed into the hearts of the lost. So, one major opposition to the Gospel is Satan.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

³ *But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:*

⁴ *In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

Notice Matthew 13:20-21

Here we see that the Gospel gets no root because of tribulation and persecution. Satan will bring either of these into a person's life to keep them from salvation. But there is more here.

Notice Matthew 13:20 again.

This person hears the Gospel and anon/straight way receives it with joy. Do you see what is missing here? It is conviction and repentance.

2 Peter 3:9

⁹ *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

In Matthew 13:20 there is no repentance or conviction but only joy. Let me just say that for someone to accept Jesus Christ they MUST be convicted of their sin. They MUST repent of their sin. Neither is mentioned here. So what is this? This is all emotion. There are people who get all ramped up on worship music and they get all emotional and they have a "FEELING" and they call it salvation. The person our Lord describes here is someone who seems to be emotional and is at a high point. But it is not long before their faith is tested, and it is proved be no saving faith at all. So, I want you to see that the enemy will use emotions and emotional music to mislead people away from true saving faith. Many churches will play emotional music and repeat it over and over and eventually the people get caught up in an emotional state. There is no preaching against sin, no preaching of judgment, wrath or the need for repentance. Hill Song and Bethel music is used much for this today.

Notice the words of Pink on this:

"The sad thing is, that today almost everything connected with modern evangelistic effort is calculated to produce just this very type of hearer. The "bright singing," the sentimentality of the music, the preachers appeals to the emotions, the demand of the churches for visible and quick "results," produce nothing but superficial returns. Sinners are urged to make a prompt "decision," are rushed to the "penitent form" and then assured that all is well with them; and the poor deluded soul leaves with a false and evanescent [quickly passing] "joy."

Notice Matthew 13:22

Here we see more opposition. It is the cares of this world and the care of worldly wealth that choke out the Gospel here. This opposition can be seen as external snares.

We must understand that Satan will do all he can and whatever he can to a distraction. He will have people show up at the most in opportune times. He will cause a baby to scream in a service where the Bible is being taught. I have seen him fill a hospital room with visitors to keep the Gospel from being shared. He will do whatever he can with external distractions.

Notice Matthew 13:23

Here is the only hearer that brings forth fruit. There are several things we need to see here.

a. The decline at the end.

Jesus says some one hundred, some sixty, and some thirty. There are those who believe this is a picture of how TRUE disciples will decrease as the years go on. This teaching certainly lines up with what Jesus taught concerning the church at Laodicea.

Revelation 3:14-20

¹⁴ And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

¹⁵ I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

¹⁶ So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

¹⁷ Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

¹⁸ I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

¹⁹ As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

This is a church of believers who are not disciples and are not bearing fruit.

b. The percentage of TRUE disciples.

If we step back and look at the parable, we see that 25% of those who hear the Gospel become true disciples.

Conclusion:

Those who teach "Kingdom Now" theology teach that this world will continue to improve until all people are Christianized. This teaching is the opposite of what is taught in the Parable of the Sower.