

"The Earthly Kingdom of Jesus Christ"

Part 23

Matthew 13

Introduction: Before we move on in our study tonight, I want to back up to last week's study and correct something that I said. We looked at the "popular" interpretation of the Parable of the Leaven last week and I explained to you that there are many who see the leaven as the Gospel, and they teach that it will spread and have a positive influence until the entire world is Christianized. But we searched the Scriptures, and we were able to see that leaven is always used to portray evil. Therefore, the teaching that says the leaven is the Gospel is contrary to what the Bible teaches and to teach that the Parable of the Leaven is a picture of how things are going to continue to improve until Jesus comes back, is contrary to what Jesus is teaching in these parables so far. I also told you that the Gospel has never converted an entire town or city or nation, but I was wrong. There is one example in the Bible where the Gospel converted two entire towns and there is another example where the entire city repented as they heard the Word of God. The city of Nineveh repented.

Jonah 3:1-8

And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying,

² *Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee.*

³ *So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey.*

⁴ *And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.*

⁵ *So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.*

⁶ *For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.*

⁷ *And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water:*

⁸ *But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands.*

The entire city of Nineveh repented when they heard the Word of God. Were these people all saved? Notice what Jesus said:

Matthew 12:41

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.*

Some say they repented because of the king's decree in verse 7 and if that is the case then the repentance was forced and not from the heart. But there are two towns in which the Bible says all were saved.

Acts 9:32-35

³² *And it came to pass, as Peter passed throughout all quarters, he came down also to the saints which dwelt at Lydda.*

³³ *And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, which had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the palsy.*

³⁴ *And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately.*

³⁵ *And all that dwelt at Lydda and Saron saw him, and turned to the Lord.*

Every person at Lydda and Saron were saved. This does not mean that entire cities and nations are being converted today. Jesus has taught us in these parables that as time moves forward there will be demonic influence within the church, Satan will over sow the wheat with tares, and the precious doctrines of our Lord will be corrupted with distorted teaching. So, as we go deeper into this age true believers will decrease in number and false believers will increase to the point the tares will be gathered in bundles at the end of the age.

Now we have come to the next parable but there is something else to see before we get to the Parable of the Hidden Treasure.

Notice Matthew 13:34-36

The remaining parables will not be taught to the multitudes but only to the disciples. Keep in mind that after hearing the Parable of the Sower, the Parable of the Wheat and Tares, the Parable of the Mustard Seed, and the Parable of the Leaven, the disciples would have been discouraged. They were getting the picture of what Christendom would be like while the King was away. One out of four would respond favorably to the Gospel, the enemy would be there to steal away the Gospel as it was sown, the enemy would over sow the wheat with tares who would be false believers and with that there would be a falser gospel, then there would be the change in the identity of Christendom and as it changed the enemy would feel comfortable resting on the inside which would result in much demonic influence and last of all there would be the corruption of the doctrines of Jesus Christ and the leaven would continue to spread. Is it any wonder why the disciples would be discouraged?

Therefore, the next two parables are for the purpose of letting the Kingdom heirs know that in all of this God was still at work as we shall see.

The Parable of the Hidden Treasure

Notice Matthew 13:44

The first thing we are going to consider is the "popular" interpretation of this parable which is the distorted view of the true meaning. Notice the words of Pink on the popular view:

"The common interpretation of this parable, both by Calvinists and Arminians, is as far removed from what I am fully assured is its true meaning as is the explanation they give of the earlier ones in Matthew 13. Dr. John Gill tells us that the treasure in this parable is "the Gospel," that the field in which the treasure is hidden is "the Scriptures," and that the man who sought and found the treasure is "an elect and awakened sinner." It is amazing that a man so deeply taught of God, could wander so far astray when he came to this parable. In the first place, the "field" is mentioned in two of the proceeding parables - the field in which the good Seed was sown, and the field that was over sown by tares; and in verse 38 of this very chapter Christ has told us the field is the world. Then why should it be supposed that the field means something entirely different in this fifth parable of the same chapter? Again, we have already had a "man" before us in the first two parables - a man who sowed good Seed in his field (:24). The Lord Jesus Himself has told us who that man is: "He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man" (:37). If then, the man in the second parable represents the Son of man, why, in this fifth parable, without any word to the contrary, are we to understand Him to point to someone entirely different?"

As we have considered before in our study, it is very important that we practice consistent interpretation as we work our way through these parables. Let us now look closely at the parable.

1. The treasure.

The first point we need to consider is the treasure and what is represented by this treasure. First of all, let us understand that the treasure here is not the church. Notice the words of Pink again:

"Never once in the twenty-one Epistles in the New Testament is the word 'treasure' used of the church. It is never applied to the saints of this current dispensation."

The treasure here represents national Israel. Let us notice a few verses.

Exodus 19:5-6

⁵ *Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar **treasure** unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:*

⁶ *And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.*

Psalm 135:4

⁴ *For the LORD hath chosen Jacob unto himself, and Israel for his peculiar **treasure**.*

From these verses we can see that Israel is pictured in the Bible as the TREASURE.

2. The finding of the treasure.

Notice Matthew 13:44a

Notice that the treasure was hidden in the field. Let us keep in mind that the field is the world. When Jesus came to the earth people of Israel were blended in with the rest of the world. They were mixed in with the Romans and living under the heavy hands of the Romans. They were being taxed with an oppressive burden. Then we read that the treasure was found. This is speaking of the first coming of Jesus Christ and His offer of the Kingdom.

Matthew 4:13-17

¹³ *And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthali:*

¹⁴ That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying,

¹⁵ The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephthalim, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles;

¹⁶ The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

When Jesus offered the Kingdom to the first century Jews, they had an offer of a lifetime before them. Had they accepted Him as their King and Messiah they would have received the Kingdom at that very moment. This would have made Jerusalem the worship capital of the world.

Zechariah 8:12-13, 20-23

¹² For the seed shall be prosperous; the vine shall give her fruit, and the ground shall give her increase, and the heavens shall give their dew; and I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things.

¹³ And it shall come to pass, that as ye were a curse among the heathen, O house of Judah, and house of Israel; so will I save you, and ye shall be a blessing: fear not, but let your hands be strong.

²⁰ Thus saith the LORD of hosts; It shall yet come to pass, that there shall come people, and the inhabitants of many cities:

²¹ And the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, Let us go speedily to pray before the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts: I will go also.

²² Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD.

²³ Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.

When Jesus came and offered the Kingdom the treasure was found and had the opportunity to experience all the blessings that were associated with the Kingdom.

3. The hiding of the treasure.

Notice Matthew 13:44b.

Next, we see that the Man, who is Jesus hides the treasure. What does this refer to? This pictures the Jews rejection of the Kingdom. They could have had all the promised blessings but instead they rejected their King, and they are now hidden in the midst of the world again.

Deuteronomy 17:14-15

¹⁴ When thou art come unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt possess it, and shalt dwell therein, and shalt say, I will set a king over me, like as all the nations that are about me;

¹⁵ Thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the LORD thy God shall choose: one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee: thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, which is not thy brother

Deuteronomy 28:15, 49-50, 63-66

¹⁵ But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:

⁴⁹ The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand;

⁵⁰ A nation of fierce countenance, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor shew favour to the young:

⁶³ And it shall come to pass, that as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good, and to multiply you; so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you, and to bring you to nought; and ye shall be plucked from off the land whither thou goest to possess it.

⁶⁴ And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone.

⁶⁵ And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind:

⁶⁶ And thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life:

This is what the Jews are facing today and will until they repent and accept their King.

4. The purchase of the field.

Notice Matthew 13:44 again.

The purchasing of the field is a reference to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as He would die for the people of Israel.

Conclusion:

As we end tonight, I will point out there is one thing missing in the parable and that is the claiming of the treasure that He paid for. It is not mentioned here because it will not happen in this age. It will happen when this age ends at the end of the Great Tribulation. Then He will gather Israel unto Himself and bring them in the Kingdom that they have longed for.

Matthew 24:

²⁹ Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

³⁰ And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

³¹ And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.