

"The Earthly Kingdom of Jesus Christ"

Part 24

Matthew 13

Introduction: In our study of the Matthew 13 parables, we have looked at five of the eighty parables. We looked at the Parable of the Sower, the Parable of the Wheat and the Tares, the Parable of the Mustard Seed, the Parable of the Leaven and the Parable of the Hidden Treasure. The first four parables were spoken to the multitudes.

Matthew 13:1-2

The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side.

² *And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.*

The disciples understood the first four parables and the message was not something to rejoice over. Only one out of four would respond properly to the Gospel, Satan would be quick to steal away the message of the Gospel that was not grasped by the hearer. Then at the end of the first parable Jesus spoke of a decline as time would go on. Then there was the tares and the wheat. In this parable they understood that false believers would be mixed in with true believers and they would be planted by Satan as he introduced a false gospel. Then in the Parable of the Mustard Seed they learned that Christendom would change its identity and Satan and his demons would lodge among believers and they would be very comfortable. Then the leaven taught them that the True Doctrines would be polluted with false teaching that would continue to spread just as leaven does on bread dough.

All of this was discouraging to the disciples. The King would be away, the Kingdom postponed and life as a believer in this new age would be a spiritual battle as Satan would do all he could to cause problems. This is when Jesus then took His disciples into the house and taught them the remaining parables.

Matthew 13:36

³⁶ *Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field.*

When they were alone in the house Jesus interpreted the Parable of the Tares and then He taught the remaining parables. Last week we looked at the Parable of the Hidden

Treasure and we learned that national Israel is the Treasure and Jesus is the Man in the parable.

Notice Matthew 13:44

When Jesus came to earth the Jews were hidden among the inhabitants of the world. When Jesus came and presented the offer of the Kingdom they were then found. But they rejected the Kingdom and now they are hidden in the world again. Jesus then went to the cross and He died for the Jews this is what is meant by Him selling all He had and buying the field. It is so interesting that He did it with joy.

Hebrews 12:1-2

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

² *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

The only thing missing in the Parable of the Hidden Treasure is Jesus claiming His purchase. The reason is it not listed here is because He will not claim His purchase in this age but it will be when He returns at the end of the Tribulation.

Matthew 24:29-31

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.*

Today the Jews are mixed in with the world but when Jesus returns, they will all be found. Let me just say that many people refer to the 10 LOST tribes of Israel. They are not lost. The Lord knows exactly where they are and they too will be gathered.

Revelation 7:1-4

And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

² *And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,*

³ *Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.*

⁴ *And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.*

Now we have come to the next parable.

➤ **The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price**

Notice Matthew 13:45-46

I want to begin by borrowing from Pink again as he presents the popular interpretation.

"Christianity is likened unto one who earnestly desired and diligently sought salvation. Ultimately his efforts were rewarded by his finding Christ, the Pearl of Great Price. Having found Him, as presented in the Gospel, the sinner sold all that he had; that is to say, he forsook all that the flesh held dear, he abandoned his worldly companions, he surrendered his will, he dedicated his life to God: and in that way, he secured his salvation. The awful thing is that this interpretation is the one which, substantially, is given out almost everywhere throughout Christendom today."

Let us consider a few points to see how contrary this is to Scripture.

1. No man seeks after God.

Romans 3:10-11

¹⁰ *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*

¹¹ *There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.*

John 6:44

⁴⁴ *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.*

2. Salvation cannot be bought.

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Isaiah 64:6

⁶ But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

3. No man has completely forsaken the desires of the flesh and surrendered his will completely.

Romans 7:15-19

¹⁵ For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.

¹⁶ If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good.

¹⁷ Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

¹⁹ For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

When this parable is taught this way then people who are truly saved will lack assurance because every believer struggles with the flesh and with Satan. Therefore, to teach that the believer must give up all fleshly desires and must surrender his or her will does nothing but cause confusion in the mind of a believer because they will NEVER do neither. It robs believers of the peace which comes with salvation when we understand that it is all by grace.

So, what is the true meaning of the parable?

➤ The Pearl

The pearl of great price here is the church. Why would the church be likened unto a pearl? The reason is because in order for a pearl to be formed there must be irritation and pain in the oyster. The pearl is the result of a grain of sand get withing the oyster and causing

pain. In the same way it was through pain and suffering that the church came about. It was through the suffering and the death of our Lord. Let us notice a picture from Genesis.

Genesis 2:21-24

²¹ And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

²² And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

²³ And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

²⁴ Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Here is the Scripture that tells us how Eve was made. She came about through blood shed and suffering. Adam was put into a deep sleep and then God performed surgery. He removed a piece of flesh and from that He built Eve. Adam shed his blood and would have felt pain, in order to get a bride. All of this is a picture of how our Lord suffered and shed His blood so that we could be saved and the church could be made.

The church is likened unto a pearl because it was through suffering that she came to be. Let me show you another pearl.

Revelation 21:10-12, 21

¹⁰ And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

¹¹ Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

¹² And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

²¹ And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.

Why are the gates pearls? It is a reminder for all of eternity that in order for us to live in the eternal state and the New Jerusalem there had to be suffering, and it was the suffering of our Lord.

➤ **The Man and His Desire**

Notice Matthew 13:45-46

This Man is the Lord and He has appeared in the previous parables of Matthew 13. Here we see that He sought out the church/His bride. He places great value upon us who belong to Him. Before you were saved it was the Lord who was seeking you and bringing about different events in our lives to turn us to Him. We did not seek Him but He sought us.

Genesis 3:7-13

⁷ *And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.*

⁸ *And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.*

⁹ *And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?*

¹⁰ *And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.*

¹¹ *And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?*

¹² *And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.*

¹³ *And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.*

Conclusion:

We will come back to this parable again next week. As we close, I just want to remind us that we are saved because our Lord sought us out. We were not attractive but He saw us for what we could be and therefore He worked in our lives to bring us to the cross and to see Him there dying for us so that we might live.