

"The Earthly Kingdom of Jesus Christ"

Part 27

Matthew 13

Introduction: Tonight, in our study of the Kingdom we have come to the last of the eight parables of Matthew 13. We shall look at this final parable this evening and then we will consider a very important point concerning the Kingdom.

➤ **The Parable of the Householder**

1. The Question

Notice Matthew 13:51

The disciples understood what Jesus had taught in these parables and there was a reason why they did.

Notice Matthew 13:36

After Jesus sent the multitudes away the disciples came to Him wanting to know more. This was the reason why they had the understanding. They wanted to know more and they came to Jesus asking for more understanding.

Application:

The understanding that was given to the disciples is available to each of us as well. First of all, we need to have a hunger to know more. When we do not have a desire to know more Truth, we can be sure that there is something in our lives that is taking away our spiritual appetite. I say this because each of us who are saved have within us the Holy Spirit and He longs to feed upon the Truth of God's Word. We can be sure that when we seek a deeper understanding that God will not send us away empty but He will give us the desires of our heart.

Psalm 37:4-5

⁴ *Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.*

⁵ *Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.*

Jeremiah 33:1-3

Moreover the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah the second time, while he was yet shut up in the court of the prison, saying,

² Thus saith the LORD the maker thereof, the LORD that formed it, to establish it; the LORD is his name;

³ Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

Psalm 145:18-19

¹⁸ The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.

¹⁹ He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them.

Matthew 7:7-11

⁷ Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

⁸ For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

⁹ Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?

¹⁰ Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

¹¹ If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, **how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?**

The point we need to grasp is that when we hunger for the Truth our Lord will give us the spiritual food to satisfy the hunger. I might add also that there are times when our Lord allows us to have a "hollow spot" because He desires for us to seek Him so that He can fill the hollow. Let us remember that our Lord desires the very best for us and He wants us to experience His joy. That joy can only come from a close walk with Him and through a steady diet of His Word.

John 15:

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

² Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

³ Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

⁵ I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

⁷ If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

¹¹ These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

John 6:32-35

³² Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.

³³ For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

³⁴ Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.

³⁵ And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

2. The Parable

Notice Matthew 13:52

The first thing we need to consider here is the scribe. Notice the words of Wiersbe on the scribe and how it applies to us.

"We are scribes—students—who sit at the feet of Jesus and listen to His words. One joy of the Christian life is the privilege of learning God's truth from God's Word. But we must not stop there....They must be disciples who do the truth. ...The scribe emphasizes learning, but the disciple emphasizes living. Disciples are doers of the Word, and they learn by doing. It is difficult to keep our lives balanced. We often emphasize learning at the expense of living. Or, we may get so busy serving God that we do not take time to listen to His Word. Every scribe must be a disciple, and every disciple must be a scribe."

Notice Matthew 13:52 again.

The question is what is Jesus teaching about this householder who brings out old and new treasure. He is making it clear that if someone is going to teach on the Kingdom or if they are going to study the Kingdom, they **MUST** consider the Kingdom as it is taught in the Old Testament and they must consider what is taught in these parables otherwise the Kingdom cannot be understood. Notice the words of Toussaint:

"The parable of the householder in verse 52 is the concluding parable, in which Jesus was saying that the disciples were responsible to teach these new truths as well as the old truths of the Old Testament."

If only the Old Testament teaching of the Kingdom is studied or only Matthew 13 is studied then our view of the Kingdom is not complete. Let me show you something from the book of Hebrews.

Hebrews 1:1-2

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

² Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

The Old Testament prophets could only give a fragmented picture of Jesus Christ when they taught because they did not have the full picture. Today we have the full picture and we can understand what they could not see. When a teacher of the Bible does not look at the Kingdom in the light of the Old and the New Testaments then the teaching is fragmented. Therefore, they must be studied together. Let us consider an example.

Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶ For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

To look at these verses without an understanding of the New Testament teaching we would be left wondering where the Kingdom is because Isaiah 9 tells the Jewish people that

when Jesus came, He would bring the Kingdom. But we know from our studies of Matthew 12-13 the Kingdom is in a state of postponement and we are living in an age that is described in Matthew 13.

Let us for a moment consider the householder who represents the disciples as well as all believers because we are all expected to be "scribes" that learn and live the Truth. If we look closely at the householder, we see that he has a TREASURE of old and new. This is speaking of the Treasures of Truth from both the Old and the New Testaments.

Application:

I certainly hope that you have spiritual Treasures of Truth stored up in your heart. This store of Treasure is very important for our everyday lives.

- **The Treasure keeps us from sin.**

Psalm 119:9-12

⁹ *Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.*

¹⁰ *With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.*

¹¹ **Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.**

¹² *Blessed art thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes.*

- **The Treasure gives us a well to draw from.**

1 Peter 3:15-16

¹⁵ *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and **be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:***

¹⁶ *Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.*

- **The Treasure arms us for spiritual warfare.**

Ephesians 6:17

¹⁷ *And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:*

As we finish our study of the 8 parables of Matthew 13, I want us to consider something that I briefly touched on last week.

➤ **Is there a spiritual Kingdom?**

Last week I mentioned to you that there are many people who want to teach that Matthew 13 is all about a spiritual Kingdom that exists now while the Jews wait upon an earthly Kingdom. Let me just say that there is no spiritual or mystery Kingdom taught by Jesus in Matthew 13.

Notice the words of Toussaint:

"It is often alleged that the Lord predicted a form of the kingdom for the Church age in His parables, particularly those in Matthew 13. For many years dispensationalists have referred to these parables as teaching a mystery form or a new form of the kingdom... However, nowhere in Matthew 13 or anywhere does the Lord Jesus use the term mystery form. Rather, He refers to the "mysteries of the kingdom of heaven" (:11); that is, the Lord in these parables is giving to His disciples the new truths about the kingdom that were hitherto unknown. It is strange that so many dispensationalists claim a new form of the kingdom is introduced in Matthew 13. Dispensationalists argue strenuously for a literal, earthly kingdom that is the fulfillment of the Old Testament when John, Jesus, and His disciples announce its nearness. Then suddenly these dispensationalists change the meaning in Matthew 13."

There is no mystery kingdom nor is there a spiritual kingdom spoken of in Matthew 13. What is described in Matthew 13 is what the Kingdom heirs will experience in the time that the King is absent.

It makes no sense to change the meaning of the Kingdom in Matthew 13.

Matthew 3:1-2

In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

² *And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

Matthew 4:17

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

Matthew 24:14-15

¹⁴ *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.*

¹⁵ *When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)*

Conclusion:

In each of these we understand that the kingdom mentioned is the earthly Kingdom. Then why would we want to change it for Matthew 13 and say it a spiritual Kingdom?

Daniel 2:32-35

³² *This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass,*

³³ *His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.*

³⁴ *Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.*

³⁵ *Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.*

In this image that pictures the times of the Gentiles there is no mention of a spiritual Kingdom but only the Kingdom that comes at the end and destroys all other kingdoms.