
MATTHEW 13

"EXPLAIN TO US THE PARABLE OF THE TARES OF THE FIELD," V 36

We look at this portion of God's word just as the disciples did at the start - with questioning minds. "Why do you speak to them in parables?" (Mt 13:10); and, "Lord, are you addressing this parable to us, or to everyone else as well?" (Lk 12:41).

Jesus answered in positive and instructive words, of course. "To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted," Mt 13:11.

And so, questions continue today. But, we must realize that we have to learn about PARABLES. They are the mode of explanation chosen by Jesus. Without the parables, people shall miss the import of God's plan for eternity - the COMING KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

"I will open My mouth in PARABLES;
I will utter things Hidden since the
foundation of the world," Mt 13:35 from Ps 78:2.

Parables instruct us about God's coming kingdom in similitude. Parables deal with time - a small mustard seed grows into the largest garden plant (v31); and, leaven making its way into all the dough (v33).

Parables teach of being PREPARED and READY for the end of time, when the harvest comes at "the end of the age," Mt 13:39.

PARABLES show a transition, using "everyday things" to reveal that one time has ended while, another time begins. In the parables, Jesus takes believers from the physical to the spiritual and from Law service to amazing grace; grace that saves us and keeps us serving, rightly.

We see Newness of faith settle within the heart of a believer; not necessarily in Jerusalem but, "In Spirit and in truth," Jn 5:23. God now works through His Son, Personally.

The garment parables of Mt 9:16; along with the wineskins (V17), show that faith can no longer be mingled with the Old way of the Law. The parables reveal a change, going from the physical and moving into a operation of the Holy Spirit.

By definition, Parables give us an understanding of the mystery of God's kingdom. Apart from Parabolic knowledge, we shall be like most of the Jews. All we shall hear from Jesus is the quote of Isaiah 6:9: "Hear ye indeed, but understand not; And see ye, indeed, but perceive not."

The fact that Israel failed to receive their Messiah is a most amazing thing because Jesus taught what every Jew longed to see - the Coming Kingdom of God.

Today, what about those who claim Jesus as their Messiah/Savior, but miss the Messiah's message of the coming Kingdom? How can the focus be upon God's will? How can the prayer, "**Thy Kingdom Come,**" have real meaning?

However, Israel will give us help, here. She knew very well that **WHEN THE MESSIAH CAME**, peace on earth would come to them. In the mind of the Jew, their Messiah would change the world, physically. But, every Jew thought that a change would be tied to Israel, as a nation; making Israel the Head and not the tail (Dt 28:13).

The **PROMISE** has not changed but, it has moved - as mentioned a thousand times, from the physical to the spiritual. The transfer was accomplished by Jesus, Himself. He lived a perfect life and offered His body to pay for man's sins. Indeed, Jesus triumphed, Spiritually. We, as believers, triumph, passing from death unto life. Thank Jesus!

Further, when He comes the Second Time, Israel shall see the kingdom established. The Seed of David will sit on the Throne, ruling Israel. That's what will occur when Christ returns.

Today, Jesus wants to rule our hearts. And, so He taught about His rule, placing it in the Parables. Certainly, we learn a moral lesson; but, too many miss the structure of the kingdom that is coming. I mean, **THAT'S WHAT WE PRAY FOR**, isn't it?

Here's how Gentiles are blessed: Christ became a curse for all men, "**in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham (Jewish hope) might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the PROMISE of the Spirit through faith,**" Galatians 3:13, 14.

While, the meaning of parables is figurative, they present a factual account about the future and how to be ready for the future. Thus, every saved, baptized Church Member must learn the parables. While, **PARABLES** teach the kingdom and brings the world into a spiritual perspective, Jesus said that they are not for everyone. Its teaching is granted only to the disciples.

However, we might find out if we are one of His disciples by using the Parables to measure our faith. Do we know them? Do Parables make sense of our future? Without question, **PARABLES** give us a **THREE POSITION** account within the kingdom. There are the lost; the saved; and, the Bride ruling with Her King.

This is what Scripture teaches, at least, for a thousand years. When the Millennium ends, Jesus turns the Kingdom over to His Father (1st Cor 15:24).

When we learn any portion of God's plan, it becomes **REAL** and **PERSONAL** and, exciting! Parable teaching adds excitement by changing our thinking on the Judgment Day. No longer will the **END-TIME** events be a scary and mysterious future for us. The Parables reveal substance and order to His coming. They keep us from misleading ourselves with a false hope that Jesus will make everyone happy on that day. Many will suffer loss, according to 1st Cor 3:13-15.

In light of the Parables, we learn to be on the alert (Mt 24:42). This time our Lord does the asking, "**Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom the Master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time?**" (Mt 13:45).

Always teaching the Father's will, Jesus instructs everyone in Mt 11:29 **"To take My yoke upon you, and LEARN from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and YOU SHALL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS."** (from Jeremiah 6:16).

The text of Matthew 13, pictures the coming kingdom in an agricultural similitude. Importantly, we are told in V 34 that **"...Jesus spoke to the multitudes in parables, and He did not speak to them without a parable."**

Therefore, PARABLES become the medium of spiritual understanding; in which, **"those without"** (Mt 13:11) can never learn. But, **"to you"** (His Church), God's plan comes alive, when received just as explained in PARABOLIC form.

In them, we view the end, as we understand the beginning. The PARABLES show that God rules His people in a glorious Beulah land finality. That's how it was in the Edenic Garden. And, that's the knowledge the parables bring to a disciple's heart.

Therefore, the message has not changed. Our King lives. We await the Kingdom on earth but, we serve the LORD according to His instruction - the Parables of Jesus Christ. In them we learn the MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM.

Jim Burks

Pastor

(916)989-0401