



The Kingdom of Heaven is Like...

Matthew 13

07-12-19

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Part 10, The Parable of the Householder: Proclamation!

Happy Friday! Our theme for the last couple of months has been, “The Kingdom of Heaven is Like...”. In Matthew 13 Jesus teaches eight parables. A Parable is a story, usually a simile, using a common practice of the day such as agriculture or homemaking, told to teach spiritual principles to born-again children of God, but to hide those principles from God-haters! We have covered seven of Jesus’ eight stories.

Parable 1 - The Sower and the Four Soils

This story taught how the glorious Good News of Jesus’s Kingdom (i.e., the Gospel) is sewed liberally, without discretion, to the whole world, but sadly, it is only joyously received by a relative few. Even though all are bidden (for God is not willing that any should perish), few accept Christ’s gracious invitation!

Parable 2 - The Wheat and the Tares

This story taught how the Enemy (Satan) is hard at work opposing Christ’s kingdom work. One of Satan’s most successful strategies is to plant pseudo-Christians—charlatans, spiritual wolves, deceivers—alongside genuine born-again believers, so as to hinder the Kingdom from within!

Parable 3 - The Mustard Seed and Parable 4 - The Hidden Leaven

These two parables taught that even with carnal and worldly humanity’s limited acceptance and even with Satan’s significant hindrances, Jesus’ spiritual kingdom—while starting small, seemingly insignificant and hidden (like leaven in a lump)—would grow surprisingly large and eternally significant!

Parable 5 - The Hidden Treasure and Parable 6 - The Pearl of Great Price

In these two stories Jesus taught how genuinely simple it is to become an eternal kingdom citizen. We can’t buy our way in. We can’t earn our way in with good works. We can’t get in through bloodline or lineage. We can’t qualify by observing rites and rituals as a member of some religious organization. No, the ONLY way to enter God’s Kingdom is to recognize God’s Kingdom as THE most precious, THE most costly, THE most amazing gift that a spiritually-lost and dying human being could ever experience, and to be willing to

trade everything that we have, or could possibly ever have, for that forgiveness and that Kingdom citizenship! When we want Jesus, and only Jesus as our exceeding Great Reward, and we account this world as dung in comparison, then THAT is the mindset of eternal salvation! When we, like that praying publican, realize that we are actually SPIRITUALLY BANKRUPT, that we are spiritually dead, condemned already, Lake of Fire-bound enemies of a Holy and Righteous God, and then we are crushed by our guilt, and terrified by our fear of Hell, and consequently we cry out, *God be merciful to me a sinner* (Luke 18:13), THEN our dead spirits are born-again, they are born from above, and we become eternal citizens of that spiritual Kingdom of Heaven.

Parable 7, The Dragnet

The ominous parable of the Dragnet used the picture of a common form of fishing used in the Sea of Galilee. A huge net dragged across the lake bottom and floated on the top, indiscriminately enclosed every kind of fish, which would then be sorted on shore. This sorting pictured the final separation of the **wicked** (i.e., those who never repented and cried out for Jesus' grace and salvation) from the **just** (i.e., the blood-washed born-again believer). This separation will take place at the very end of this world age. The angels will cast the wicked into the "furnace" of the Lake of Fire. Jesus warned that there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth! Today, mockers scoff at Jesus' warning, but alas, there will be no scoffing on that day,

Having used these seven parables to teach great Kingdom Principles, Jesus then uses the eighth —**The Parable of the Householder**—to tell His Apostle's, and really all born-again believers, what to do with these principles! But before we study the parable proper... *Jesus saith unto them, Have ye understood all these things?* (Matthew 13: 51a). The word *understood* connotes the idea of "to put together" (from Strong's Concordance), and *these things* refers back to the principles of the seven just-taught parables. And so what Jesus is asking, is this: "Has the Holy Spirit enlightened your minds so that you are comprehending the big picture; are you putting it all together?" Now... Jesus could have asked this very same question in a much longer form. He could have recapitulated the entire teaching session, asking,

"Do you understand that even though the Gospel is sown indiscriminately in grace, that it will take root and bear fruit in relatively few hearts?

Do you understand that Satan is hard at work sowing a Fifth Column of pseudo-Christians among genuine Christians?

Do you understand that even though the response to the Gospel is relatively small and the opposition is great, that my spiritual Kingdom will grow large and vibrant?

Do you know how to teach people to become a part of my Kingdom? They must account citizenship in my Kingdom more valuable than anything that this World system could ever give. They must be willing to account as dung, and throw away, all that this World can give them, and then humbly embrace me as their loving Savior, and as their exceeding great reward!

And finally, do you understand that there will be inescapable, and eternal citizenship consequences at the end of this World age? Those who are even now a part of my eternal spiritual kingdom will enter into glory with my Father. But those who, in this life, accounted my blood an unclean thing, worthy only to be cast down and trodden upon, will be hurled

into an eternal furnace of fire, and there they will wail and gnash their teeth in pain and regret!

Do you put all of these things together?"

Whew! That would be a long question. So Jesus simply asked, *Have ye understood all these things?* And in response, *They say unto him, Yea, Lord* (Matthew 13:51b). But from what they later said and did, we know their understanding was far from perfect. But, lest we be smug, judgmental, and hypocritical, we need to be humble, realistic, and ask, "Whose spiritual understanding IS perfect?" The answer is, "Only Jesus'!" Remember, that even as Jesus stood on the Mt. of Olives, ready to ascend back to the Father, the Apostles asked, *Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel* (Acts 1:6)? They still didn't understand about the now 2-plus millennia church age which was even then starting. Truly how could they? It was a great mystery! Even the great Apostle Paul admitted that he had not yet arrived! Just like Jesus accepts us in our current **growing** state of spiritual maturity, Jesus accepted their response as genuine; he took them as growing children of God. He took them at their level of spiritual maturity, and He continued to teach them through the Holy Spirit, and He used them!

And so based on their affirmative response, Jesus then gives them the final parable of Matthew 13, the Parable of the Householder, a.k.a., the Parable of Proclamation!

Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old (Matthew 13:52).

The first premise revealed by Jesus was that these 12 were becoming scribes of the Kingdom of Heaven! Wow! Whether they knew it or not, they were to know it now: they were being groomed by God Incarnate to become scribes of both the Old Testament and scribes or Apostles of the coming New Testament and its new institution, the Local New Testament Church! Very simply, a "scribe" was a learner, interpreter, teacher, and religious leader. In our parlance, a scribe was a theologian, and pastor/teacher! The Scribe was a proclaimer of God's Truth!

The second premise revealed is that these 12 scribe-theologian-pastor/teachers were to behave LIKE *householders*! The *householder* was the head of the home, translated elsewhere as "good man of the house" and "master of the house". We might think of this person as the father or leader of the home. This man was responsible for the entire welfare of the family and all that were resident in that family unit. It was his responsibility to keep everyone fed and clothed, and protected from those who were a threat! And it was his duty to maintain a storehouse, here called a *treasure* (literally a depository), in which were kept supplies and seasonal needs, from which he could dispense items as needed. In the storehouse or depository would be kept all the seasonal clothing, the stocked food supplies, the weapons for defenses, medicines, and anything else needed for family survival throughout the year. It was their closet/garage/storage unit all rolled into one. In this context the *treasure* refers to the spiritual resource for survival, i.e., the Word of God! These scribes were householders of the treasury of the Word of God.

The phrase *bringeth forth* has the idea of casting out, scattering, or distributing widely! In short, it pictures a generous sowing or dispersion, just as is pictured in the parable of the sower and the four soils. The items being brought out of the householder's treasury are not food or clothing of course, but are the Truths of God's Word, and especially the Truth about Salvation and the warnings about Hell!

Jesus took 12 largely blue-collar, untrained men, and turned them into Holy Spirit-taught and empowered Scribes/Apostles who acted as Householders, i.e., as Theologians, Pastor/Teachers, and Shepherds, who PROCLAIMED THE GOOD NEWS, started local churches, taught doctrine, trained men to pastor, appointed pastors, corrected error, wrote the Holy Scriptures of the New Testament, and finally brought the Truths of the New Testament and Old Testament together into beautiful harmony, i.e., they brought, *...forth out of his treasure things new and old.*

God bless and consider!