

Matthew 13:1-33 – 3 November 2019

“The 4 Great Activities of The Kingdom” “Part 1 of 2”

Introduction

Jesus has been in Galilee preaching, teaching & having compassion on the people.

Jesus, the Great Communicator, wants “all to be saved & to come to the knowledge of the truth”. (I Tim 2:4)

Jesus gives 3 great discourses in Book of Matthew

- Matt 5-7 – Sermon on Mount – The Past or basis and foundation of what the kingdom should be.
- Matt 13 – Parables of the Kingdom – The Present or actuality of what the kingdom is.
- Matt 24-25 – Olivet Discourse – The Future or culmination of what the kingdom will be.

Chapter 13 is the first time He teaches in parables.

Parable def:

The word parable means *to throw alongside*.

It is a spiritual truth illustrated by using an analogy of an everyday earthly expression.

Parable is double-edged: Given so only the motivated will understand

Advantage of Parables: Helps w/ memorization and helps to drive us to study deeper.

Jesus is now going to address the 4 Great Activities of the Kingdom by using parables. (We see 2 today)

There are factions that are busy about effecting the end result of what the Kingdom will be like.

We're going to look at what actions they each take that effects the Kingdom of God.

#1st Great Activity of the Kingdom is we receive the Word of God (Vs 1-23)

Human beings have the integral role to play of whether to respond to what we hear from the Lord

Vs 1-9 – The Parable of the Sower and the Seed

Read Vs 1-2

1. Created a resonance chamber for the acoustics.
2. This isn't just disciples but the multitudes.

Read Vs 3-9

1. We'll get the full explanation of this from Jesus a few verses later.
2. What do you do when you hear instruction from the Lord that you don't understand?
 - a. Some walk away
 - b. Some try to get it until life gets hard
 - c. Some try to get it until they get distracted
 - d. Some dig into it...and get it

3. Some people will choose to receive the understanding of the Word of God.
4. This is spiritual understanding.
5. This is the mark of a regenerated, born-again believer. (Read I Cor 2:14)

Now if you're sitting here thinking, "Yeah but what does the parable mean?", the next verses are for you!

Vs 10-17 – Speaks to those who have a desire to know the mysteries of God. Is that you?

Read Vs 10-11

1. Read Luke 8:9-10
2. Story as an example
 - a. In School, played baseball, but didn't care to press in and learn the rules or skills.
 - b. Now I love and coach soccer. I find myself learning everything I can to get better.

Read Vs 12-13

1. The one that receives God's Word will be given MORE revelation.
2. The one that only hears God's Word but doesn't receive it, even that initial level of info will be taken away.

Read Vs 14-17

1. Those that press into God's Word have been converted and healed.

*Vs 18-23 – B/c they pressed into what to understand...
Jesus will now explain it to them!*

Read Vs 18-19

1. When you hear the Word but don't choose to take it in, even that which you heard is taken away
2. This is for to those just 1st hearing of kingdom.
3. But this can also apply to each time we hear something new from the Lord thru His Word.

Read Vs 20-21

1. This group of people seems to hear but also to immediately take in the Word.
2. But when made fun of or persecuted for being a believer, they walk away from it.

Read Vs 22

1. So the stony ground person was turned aside from following God b/c of the hard parts of life.
2. Now the thorn-infested person is turned aside b/c of the good and bountiful parts of life.

Read Vs 23

1. All believers will bear fruit. (Just see John 15)
2. The degree to which you pressing into knowing God thru His Word is the degree to which you'll bear fruit.

People always asks, well which groups are saved?

1. I always respond, well which group are you in?
2. It's our choice how we'll respond when God speaks to us.
3. I don't want to take a chance of not pleasing God by being in one of the middle two groups.
4. I want to produce fruit to please my Father.
5. Read Matt 10:22
6. Read John 15:16

#2nd Great Activity of the Kingdom is Satan deceives the people regarding the Word (Vs 24-33)

You don't think Satan would just sit back and let God offer redemption without trying to stop it, do ya?

Vs 24-30 – The Parable of the Wheat & Tares

Read Vs 24-25

1. Press into these parables yourself.
 - a. What does it mean, “But while men slept”?
 - b. *“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”* Edmund Burke
2. Satan is just as active trying to make converts of the heart as God is.
3. Satan wants wheat destroyed by effects of tares.

Read Vs 26-30

1. God's every intention is to do what is needed to care for the wheat.
2. Satan's every intention is to deceive & counterfeit but the tares (in vs 26) bear no fruit!

Vs 31-32 – Mustard seed becomes a giant tree

Read Vs 31-32

1. “Becometh a tree” – picturing abnormal growth
2. “Birds of the air” – Satan’s forces, just as in parable of Sower & Seed (Chap 13:4, 19)
3. Satan is trying to get within the Church, within the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth to destroy it!
 - a. Act 4 – Attacking the church from outside
 - b. Act 5 – Attacking the church from within
4. You say, *I thought the kingdom was perfect and ruled by God?*
 - a. Luke 17:21 – kingdom is among you....
 - b. You began to live within the kingdom the moment you were born again.
 - c. The rest of the Christ-rejecting world is living among the kingdom.
 - d. W & T (vs 24-25) – There’s a “good man” & “his enemy” that are affecting the Kingdom.
 - e. Deceivers are bloating the church.

Vs 33 – Leaven in the bread of the church

Read Vs 33

1. Parables are building upon themselves.
 - a. “Hid” it – Just as Satan sowed the tares.
 - b. “3 measures of meal” – very large amount, the bloated church.
2. “Until the whole was leavened” – Satan will spread his deceivers to every part of the church.
3. Are you prepared to tell the true thing from the lie?
4. There is only one thing that cuts through all the lies and opinions of man.
 - a. Turn to Heb 4:12-13

Conclusion –

So, we've seen 2 of 4 Great Activities of the Kingdom of Heaven

1. *We receive* the Word of God
 - a. We are the central figures being influenced by both God and Satan.
 - b. When we hear God's Word, we need to press into it to receive it.
 - c. You can have more revelation from God, He's just waiting for you to ask.
2. Satan deceives the people regarding the Word
 - a. Satan is just as active at deceiving as God is at offering true and love.
 - b. Satan counterfeits and intermingles to make a bloated church.
 - c. No church is exempt from Satan trying to deceive the true believers.