

The parables in the light of THE PARABLE

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In this kingdom series, we recently embarked on fixing our attention on the parables.

Parables are commonly used in the scriptures from Old Covenant to New. It seems to be a particular method that the biblical writers used to reach people with an obscure truth that they were blind to or to aid and assist another in getting a better understanding of some concept.

Yahweh, used this method often with His people through His prophets to reach them with wisdom and understanding. So, it should come to us as no surprise that when the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob manifested Himself in the flesh as Jesus, the Messiah, He continued to do the same.

Parables not only were utilized to fulfill the word of the Lord (because that's simply what He said He would do) in speaking to those who are blind in seeing and deaf in hearing, but He also used it to teach His own disciples concerning the kingdom that He was now ushering in by His presence and actions in the days of His flesh.

The phrase "the kingdom of God" was never mentioned in the Old Covenant, but in contrast, it was used extensively in the New Covenant by Jesus and His apostles (70 times from the gospels through the letters. Noting that, in and of itself, is revealing enough to us that something drastically changed or that we are missing something.

Could it be that we have fallen so far from Him and His original intentions, that in seeing we don't see and in hearing we don't hear what should have been self-evident from the beginning?

1. There is, has always been, and forever will be a kingdom (all of creation everything seen and unseen).
2. Yahweh is its King.
3. In His Kingdom, we are priests of the Most High God charged to rule and reign over the earthly domain of His kingdom.

These truths should have been self-evident from the beginning, but we've lost these basic fundamental realities due to living life our own way.

By living life our own way, we have decided for ourselves what is good and what is evil, with no input from the One, the only one, that is completely pure, holy, and righteous. He alone is both light and truth, with no measure of darkness in Him whatsoever. He is completely unstained by the knowledge of good and evil.

We on the other hand have been stained by the knowledge of good and evil because in order to obtain the knowledge of good and evil we had to do the very thing that stained us.

Forget about the donkeys... It was not about the fruit (was it an apple, orange, pomegranate etc). It wasn't about the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. In fact, if you step back and take a good look again at the beginning...

Gen 2:9 And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life *was* also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil, just as the tree of life, was in the midst of the garden of pleasure.

What was the Gen 2 account recorded for?

To reveal to us what caused/causes our present reality of existence. To show us the damage created in His kingdom when any being created by Yahweh acts independent Him and His ultimate authority over all creation.

We call it the fall, but as we leave Eden and read through the biblical narrative, we find that the fall is the same in both heaven and earth, His kingdom.

We (humanity) have been eating from the knowledge of good and evil all our lives and are stained by it.

We have been fighting and jockeying ever since for an honor, prestige and power that belongs to Yahweh alone... He is God most High, El Elyon, God of gods, Lord of lords, King of kings.

In our vain efforts to be God, or be like God, we have killed, stolen, destroyed any and everyone that gets in our way so that we can become worshipped. We've done this for so long, generation after generation, that essentially, we have forgotten our purpose and place in this Yahweh's creation.

So, we asked the question "why did He become King?", a term He never referred to Himself as in the Old Covenant (not until the book of Malachi). A term He never claimed to be during the days of His flesh (but everyone kept putting that title on Him).

Why? To awaken the dead to life. A life consistent with these truths that there is a kingdom. Yahweh is its King. And we were created to be the bearers of His image ruling the earth domain of His creation.

The death of the man Jesus Christ and His subsequent resurrection has the power to shake the dead back to that reality. He became King to restore unto us a proper perspective in us that we lost in the garden – we are citizens of His kingdom created to bear His image and represent...

- His power,
- His reign,
- His authority,

- His will,
- His word,
- His ways,
- and His works in the earth.

He is THE King and He is our King.

The parables are the teachings that He used to teach us, in our fallen state of existence, regarding this reality... a reality that is slowly becoming manifest to all.

In our eyes, it's happening way too slowly, but that doesn't change the reality.

Heb 10:12-13 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, **(13)** from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.

If we want to understand and taste of this kingdom now, we need to start living like it is now... because it is, though it remains hidden to a fallen and corrupt world. It's not only now, it is to come.

The parables are being used to re-form in each of our minds this Kingdom mindset.

In Matthew, he follows **THE PARABLE** (of the sower) with the following:

The Parable of the Weeds/Tares

Mat 13:24-30 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "**The kingdom of heaven is like** a man who sowed good seed in his field; (25) but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. (26) But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.

(27) So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' (28) He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?'

(29) But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them.

(30) Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn." ' ' "

The Revelation of the Parable of the Weeds/Tares

Mat 13:36-43 Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field."

(37) He answered and said to them: "**He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.**

The title "the Son of Man" simply means a human. One of the reasons Jesus referred to Himself as the Son of Man far more times than the Son of God is because everyone needed to understand He was genuinely and authentic human in all points.

Heb 2:14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

Heb 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin.

Yet, aren't we all individually "a son of man"? This "Son of Man", who is also the Son of God, birthed into existence, by what we call today the new birth (birth from above), His own sons by means of the gospel of the kingdom, sons of God.

(38) The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one.

(39) The enemy who sowed them is the devil,
the harvest is the end of the age,
and the reapers are the angels.

(40) Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age.

(41) The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, (42) and will cast them into

the furnace of fire.
 There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.
 (43) Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in **the kingdom** of their Father.
He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

In contrast to the parable of the sower (focused on individuals), the parable of the tares and the wheat is a macroview (focused on masses of people worldwide).

The principle is still the same.

Another Parable of a Mustard Seed and of Leaven

Matt 13:31-32	Mar 4:30-32
(31) Another parable He put forth to them, saying: " The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, (32) which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches."	(30) Then He said, "To what shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what parable shall we picture it? (31) It is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth; (32) but when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade."

The kingdom of God initially, seems insignificant and unassuming, easily overlooked because it's potential is not discerned. It's obscured by those blinded or distracted by other things.

- "Good things come in small packages."
- "Good things come to those who wait."

(33) Another parable He spoke to them: "**The kingdom of heaven** is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened."

Mat 13:34-35 All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them, (35) that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "I WILL OPEN MY MOUTH IN PARABLES; I WILL UTTER THINGS KEPT SECRET FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD."

More Parables “The Kingdom of heaven is like...”

The Parable of the Hidden Treasure

Mat 13:44-52 "Again, **the kingdom of heaven** is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

The Parable of the Pearl of Great Value

(45) "Again, **the kingdom of heaven** is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, (46) who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

The Parable of the Net

(47) "Again, **the kingdom of heaven** is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, (48) which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away. (49) So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, (50) and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

Conclusion

(51) Jesus said to them, "Have you understood all these things?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord."

(52) Then He said to them, "Therefore every scribe instructed concerning **the kingdom of heaven** is **like a householder who brings out of his treasure** *things* new and old."