

# The Kingdom of God – The Parable

Given that the kingdom of God has a gospel, a good news message of glad tidings that is to be declared by His priests, the priests of His kingdom, for the purposes of rescuing, restoring, redeeming, and reconciling our fallen brethren who don't believe they are sick, lost or dying...

- How exactly is this going to work?
- What exactly are we responsible for as priests in His kingdom who have been give a divine mandate by our Creator to have dominion over the earth?
- What does it mean to live in a fallen world that presently does not recognize Him as King of all creation and sovereign absolute?
- There are presently over 8 billion people in the world today. This task is too daunting for me. Who am I to change the minds of all these people to recognize the One, True, and Living God is true King over all the nations?

All valid questions that without proper understanding only work to increase our anxiety and recognition of our ineptitude at making any significant dent in this cause.

Transporting ourselves back to the first century days, let us look at this with eyes like that of the disciples who walked with Jesus.

He's preaching the kingdom of God everywhere He goes. He's healing the sick and casting out demons left and right. He is exemplifying what it is to demonstrate and walk in the kingdom of God that He is preaching. He's forgiving sins and restoring those who respond with repentance back to a right relationship with a new opportunity to walk with God who created them all in His image.

He preaches and demonstrates.

That does not equate automatically to understanding by the disciples. They get glimpses and at times, walk in it themselves, but like Peter who walked on the water briefly with Jesus, the ability slipped away.

They had:

- moments of victory and moments of frustration;
- moments of peace and moments of fear;
- moments of faith and moments of doubt and unbelief.

Like a child learning to take his first few steps, shakily, groggily, with many falls, scars, bumps and bruises to remind themselves of lessons learned, they grew in knowledge and understanding. They needed **practice**, support, and time.

Our natural growth and development in this life gives us a bit of insight into our spiritual growth as well. We might even say, our natural development is a parable of our spiritual development.

“A parable is often no more than an extended metaphor or simile, using figurative language in the form of a story to illustrate a particular truth. The Greek word for “parable” literally means “a laying by the side of” or “a casting alongside,” thus “a comparison or likeness.” In a parable something is placed alongside something else, in order that one may throw light on the other. A familiar custom or incident is used to illustrate some truth less familiar.”

Jesus used parables for a myriad of reasons, but for now, I will only highlight two:

1. To confound the wise of this world...
  - a. [1Co 1:20-21](#) Where *is* the wise? Where *is* the scribe? Where *is* the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? [\(21\)](#) For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message **preached to save those who believe.**
2. And to teach the humble how to overcome this world and walk as tried and true citizens of the King and His kingdom - to help the disciples, the faithful followers of Christ understand the mystery(ies) of the kingdom of God.

## **Parable of the Sower**

Mar 4:2-12 NKJV

- (2) Then He taught them many things by parables, and said to them in His teaching:
- (3) "Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow.
- (4) And it happened, as he sowed, *that some seed* fell by the wayside; and the birds of the air came and devoured it.
- (5) Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth.
- (6) But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away.
- (7) And some *seed* fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no crop.
- (8) But other *seed* fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."
- (9) And He said to them, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"
- (10) But when He was alone, those around Him with the twelve asked Him about the parable.
- (11) And He said to them, "**To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables,**
- (12) **so that 'SEEING THEY MAY SEE AND NOT PERCEIVE, AND HEARING THEY MAY HEAR AND NOT UNDERSTAND; LEST THEY SHOULD TURN, AND THEIR SINS BE FORGIVEN THEM.'** "

Among the many reasons Yahweh manifested in the flesh as Jesus our Savior, was to bring His own word to pass, in other words, to fulfill it.

Psa 78:1-3 NKJV

- (1) **A Contemplation Of Asaph.** Give ear, O my people, *to* my law; Incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
- (2) I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old,
- (3) Which we have heard and known, And our fathers have told us.

Isa 6:9-10 NKJV

- (9) And He said, "Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.'
- (10) "Make **the heart** of this people dull, And their ears heavy, And shut their eyes; Lest they see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And **understand with their heart**, And return and be healed."

Mar 4:13-20 NKJV

- (13) And He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?
- (14) The sower sows the word.
- (15) And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts.
- (16) These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness;
- (17) and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the **word's sake**, immediately they stumble.
- (18) Now these are the ones sown among thorns; *they are* the ones who **hear** the word,
- (19) and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.
- (20) But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who **hear** the word, accept *it*, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."

Mat 13:10-23 NKJV

- (10) And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"
- (11) He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.
- (12) For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.
- (13) Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.
- (14) And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'HEARING YOU WILL HEAR AND SHALL NOT UNDERSTAND, AND SEEING YOU WILL SEE AND NOT PERCEIVE;
- (15) FOR THE HEARTS OF THIS PEOPLE HAVE GROWN DULL. THEIR EARS ARE HARD OF HEARING, AND THEIR EYES THEY HAVE CLOSED, LEST THEY SHOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES AND HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, LEST THEY SHOULD UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEARTS AND TURN, SO THAT I SHOULD HEAL THEM.'
- (16) But blessed *are* your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear;
- (17) for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous *men* desired to see what you see, and did not see *it*, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear *it*.
- (18) "Therefore hear the parable of the sower:
- (19) When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand *it*, then the **wicked one** comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.
- (20) But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;
- (21) yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises **because of the word**, immediately he stumbles.

- (22) Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.
- (23) But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands *it*, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

Luk 8:9-15 NKJV

- (9) Then His disciples asked Him, saying, "What does this parable mean?"
- (10) And He said, "**To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest *it is given in parables,*** that 'SEEING THEY MAY NOT SEE, AND HEARING THEY MAY NOT UNDERSTAND.'
- (11) "Now the parable is this: **The seed is the word of God.**
- (12) Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and **takes away the word out of their hearts,** lest they should believe and be saved.
- (13) But the ones on the rock *are those* who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.
- (14) Now the ones *that* fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.
- (15) But the ones *that* fell on the good ground are those who, **having heard the word with a noble and good heart,** keep *it* and bear fruit with patience.

Microview of the KOG at work in individuals.

Luk 17:20-21 Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; (21) nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' **For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.**"