

Journey Through the Bible: A Year of Our Lord

Session 42: The Gospels (Part III: The Kingdom Parables)

Remember Acts 17:11

The New Testament:

Historical Accounts	(5)
<u>The Gospels</u>	4
<u>Synoptic: Mt. Mk. Lk.</u>	(3)
<u>Commentary: Jn.</u>	(1)
Acts	1
Interpretive Letters	(21)
Pauline Epistles	14*
Hebrew Christian Epistles	7
Prophecy (Apocalypse)	1

Layers of Meaning:

- Prophetic Idiom: A person, place, thing, idea, occasion, or event that possesses a theological/symbolic significance in Scripture.
 - o Includes numbers, animals, shapes, building materials, colors, names, etc...
- Rule of 1st Mention: The place in Scripture where a Prophetic Idiom is first written about holds a profound significance regarding its cultural/theological meaning.
- Rule of Expository Constancy: The established meaning for a prophetic idiom tends to remain constant throughout both its immediate context and Scripture in general.

Why Parables?

Ref. Is. 6:9-10; Mt. 13:10-17, 34

Parable: A brief story, grounded in everyday life, used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson.

“An earthly story with a heavenly meaning.”

- Used as a Judgement Against the Hard-Hearted
 - o Revealed Only Through the Teaching Ministry of the Holy Spirit in Tandem with Other Associated Passages of Scripture
 - o Truth is an “Investment” in the Believer & We are Judged (Sanctification) on How We Reinvest it (Spread, Apply, or Bury)

The Kingdom Parables (Mt. 13):

- The Parable of the Sower (v. 3-9; 18-23)
- The Wheat and the Tares (v. 24-30, 36-43)
- The Mustard Seed (v. 31-32)
- The Leaven (v.33)
- The Treasure in the Field (v. 44)
- The Pearl of Great Price (v. 45-46)
- The Dragnet (v. 47-50)
- The Storeroom of Truth* (v. 51-52)

The Revealed Truth in the Kingdom Parables:

Ref. Mt. 13:34-35; Eph. 3:4-6

- Central Subject Hinted but Not Revealed in the OT
 - o The Nature of the Church (Ecclesiology)
 - Growth
 - Sanctification & Discipleship
 - Patterns of Development (Warnings)
 - Spiritual Attack

The Parable of the Sower (v. 3-9; 18-23):

“Let anyone who has ears, listen.” (v. 9)

- Explained by Jesus
- Idioms:
 - o Soil (The Heart)
 - o Seed The Word of God (Gospel)
 - o Bird (Agents of the Enemy)
 - o Sower (Christ)
- The Path (Wayside): Those who are exposed to the Word but do not seek understanding. The agents of the enemy snatches it from them.
- Rocky Ground: Those who begin with great enthusiasm but choose not to grow/mature in the faith. They leave at the first sign of difficulty.
- Thorns: Those who become entangled in the cares of the world, not making their relationship with God a priority. They do not produce fruit.
- Good Ground: Those that hear & apply the Word to their lived. They grow in Spiritual maturity & produce fruit.
 - o 100x, 60x, 30x (Note: Declining Progression)

The Wheat and the Tares (v. 24-30, 36-43):

- Explained by Jesus
- New Idioms:
 - Field (World)
 - Enemy (Devil)
 - Workers (Angels)
 - Wheat (Believers/ “Children of Heaven”)
 - Harvest (Judgement)
 - “Tares” or “Weeds” (Greek: “Zizania”)
 - “Poison Darnel” or “False Wheat”:
Resembles wheat until the grains mature & turn black. Seeds are prone to a fungal infection which can be fatal if ingested.
 - Children of the Evil One
- Meaning:
 - The Enemy Plants His Agents Alongside the Children of God/Initially Resembling Them.
 - Overtime They Each Become Known by the Fruit they Produce (White vs. Black)
 - At the Judgement the Children of the Kingdom Inherit & the Children of the Enemy are Condemned

The Mustard Seed (Mt. 13:31-32):

- Unexplained
- New Idioms:
 - Mustard Seed: (Kingdom/Church)
 - (White) Mustard: Annual plant growing to 28In high. Native to the Middle East/ Mediterranean
 - (Black) Mustard: Grow to 47In high and are native to N. Africa & Europe.
 - (Brown) Mustard: Leaf Mustard is cultivated as a vegetable
- Meaning:
 - The Church Grows Beyond Earthly Expectation & Attracts the Agents of the Enemy to Rest in its Branches (And Eat More Seeds).

The Leaven (v.33):

- Unexplained
- New Idioms:
 - 3 Measures of Flour (Meal): Cultural Reference to the Fellowship Offering Between Abraham & God (Ref. Gen. 18:6)
 - Yeast/Leaven: Sin (Spec. Pride) Corrupts by puffing up without adding substance.
- Meaning:
 - An agent of the enemy is sent to corrupt the fellowship through pride

The Treasure in the Field (v. 44):

- Unexplained
- New Idiom:
 - Treasure: The lost who accept the gift of salvation.
- Meaning:
 - Christ gave everything for the sake of the salvation to all peoples scattered throughout the world & is also Lord of all the earth. (Whosoever will & Lord of All)

The Pearl of Great Price (v. 45-46):

- Unexplained
- New Idiom:
 - Pearl: Gentiles/Church
 - Unkosher (Comes from Oysters)
 - Not Valued by Jewish Custom
 - A gem that begins as a useless but plentiful irritant (sand) & is remade through a covering (anointing/atoning) process, then removed from its place of growth to become an item of adornment.
- Meaning:
 - Christ gave everything for a people who once were & thought of as an irritation & valueless

The Dragnet (v. 47-50):

- Explained
- New Idioms:
 - Net: The Coming Judgement
 - Fish: Kosher (Acceptable) & Unkosher (Unacceptable)

