

Providence Reformed Baptist Church – Sunday, January 29, 2023

Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew

Message 78. The Purpose for Parables – Matthew 13:10-17

Pastor Phillip M Way

Introduction: The disciples ask Jesus why He is speaking to the crowds in parables as they notice the change in His focus and His teaching. Truth is being concealed to many and revealed only to a few. What makes the difference? And what is His purpose for this?

- I. Why Parables? – vs. 10
- II. Predestination – vs. 11
 - A. Given, not Given – as the Lord wills
 1. To you – the disciples believe and accept Jesus’ teaching
 2. To them – The people do not believe and reject Jesus’ teaching – Matt. 11:16-24
 3. Revealed or concealed
 - B. The Mysteries of the Kingdom
 1. Sacred secrets revealed to select stewards – 1 Cor. 4:1-2; Eph. 1:7-10; Col. 2:24-28
 2. Knowledge and understanding of gospel truths
 3. The truth condemns or it converts - Spurgeon
- III. Progress – vs. 12
 - A. To Whoever Has, More is Given – Matt. 25:14-30
 1. The disciples see their understanding deepen
 2. The more they know the more they want to know
 - B. To Whoever Does Not Have, Even More is Lost – “An ignorant man going into a museum, or hearing a learned lecture, only feels himself a greater fool.” – Spurgeon
- IV. Prophecy – vs. 13-15
 - A. This Was Prophesied – Isaiah 6:9-10
 1. The Doom of the Disobedient
 2. Doing what dooms you – Deut. 29:2-4
 - B. Hearing
 1. If you refuse to listen eventually you will not be able to hear
 2. Even if you hear, you will not understand
 - C. Seeing
 1. What good is it to see but not perceive?
 2. They closed their eyes – blinded by the light they could not understand
 - D. See and Hear – John 1:4-5, 10-13; 3:19
- V. Privilege – vs. 16-17
 - A. Blessed – John 20:29
 - B. Look What You’ve Seen! – Hebrews 11:39-40
 - C. All of Grace – Eph. 4:7
 - D. Grace, Salvation, Holiness – 1 Peter 1:10-16

Cross References

Matthew 11:16-24

16 “But to what shall I liken this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their companions, 17 and saying: ‘We played the flute for you, And you did not dance; We mourned to you, And you did not lament.’ 18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ 19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ But wisdom is justified by her children.” 20 Then He began to rebuke the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent: 21 “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. 22 But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you. 23 And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. 24 But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you.”

1 Corinthians 4:1-2

4 Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

Ephesians 1:7-10

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, 9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, 10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.

Matthew 25:14-30

14 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. 15 And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. 16 Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. 17 And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. 18 But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord’s money. 19 After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 “So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’ 21 His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ 22 He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’ 23 His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ 24 “Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.’ 26 “But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. 27 So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. 29 ‘For to everyone who

has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Isaiah 6:9-10

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."

Deuteronomy 29:2-4

2 Now Moses called all Israel and said to them: "You have seen all that the Lord did before your eyes in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land— 3 the great trials which your eyes have seen, the signs, and those great wonders. 4 Yet the Lord has not given you a heart to perceive and eyes to see and ears to hear, to this very day.

John 1:4-5

4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

John 1:10-13

10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 3:19

19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

John 20:29

29 Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Hebrews 11:39-40

39 And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, 40 God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Ephesians 4:7

7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

1 Peter 1:10-16

10 Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, 11 searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. 12 To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into. 13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober,

and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; 15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

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