

13:41

The Son of Man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity. Lawlessness. Those who live without a law. There are no lawless people in the **kingdom**. If you're one of these people that just talks about your liberty in Christ, and to you that means you don't have to do anything you're told to do?...You don't belong in the kingdom. It's not for you. Kingdom people don't specialize in telling you what you don't have to do anymore. You don't get to be immodest in the kingdom and no one talk to you about it. You don't get to be flippant with your words in the kingdom and no one call you on it. If you have a problem with rules than you don't belong in the kingdom. You don't get into the kingdom by keeping rules but you don't get into the kingdom so that you don't have to keep them anymore either. We have a God of order and He has rules, and if you don't like rules the kingdom is not for you.

And this Son of Man with His angels, His angels **shall cast them**, that is those who offend and those who do iniquity and those who, in the parable, are identified as what? Tares, yeah. He said He's going to have His angels **cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.**

13:43

Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father... And I don't think I caught what was going on with Matthew until I was driving a few minutes ago, and I thought, "I better record that because I'm not going to preach another sermon on that parable."

Then shall the righteous shine... Now I have to tell you, up until this point I had been putting the emphasis on the word shine. But it's possible that Matthew, recording the words of Jesus, was saying that in that furnace of fire there will be some shining. Now it might seem sadistic to say that you will be glowing in a furnace of fire.

And then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. So both are shining. Interesting that it is a fire in both cases. One is in a furnace. One is in a kingdom. Now that is really something. The entire thing is a contrast to being in a furnace of with the weeds. But what I want to point out here is they are both shining with fire.

So you say, "Well, it's a reach." Maybe it's a reach if I don't have an Old Testament Scripture to at least give me some idea that I might be right here. Isaiah is already mentioned, quoted, or alluded to, some ten times in the Book of Matthew before we get to chapter 13 so I don't find it to be a reach at all to go to Isaiah 13 with this analogy.

*13:1 The burden of Babylon...Howl ye; for the day of the Lord is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty. Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt: and they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: **they shall be amazed at one another;***

they will stare at each other as amazed people,

their faces shall be as flames.

And I pointed out, quoting 2 Corinthians chapter 3, that the reason we are able to shine with the radiance of the Son, in the kingdom to come, is because we'll be looking on the Father, and our countenances will reflect the countenance of the Father.

Much like 2 Corinthians 3:13:

And not as Moses, which put a vail over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look...Upon him, because he was looking at the face of God.

So, just like when they will be looking at one another, and we will see radiance and glory and brightness, in the kingdom to come, as forecasted by Moses with the time that He looked at the radiance of God in the Old Testament, so I believe there will be a time in which those who are being punished by the Lord will look at each other and Isaiah 13:8,

their faces shall be as flames.

So, I really do believe that this book that we hold in our hands is so amazing. Here's another way that this passage could be viewed, is that the tares will shine in the furnace, looking at each other, Isaiah 13, aghast at one another, their faces looking like flames. But the righteous shall shine with the radiance of the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Because they're looking on His face their faces have the radiance of the sun. So, I think Matthew, I think Jesus, is drawing a contrast that the wheat and the tares are both shining. One in a furnace of fire; one in the kingdom of their Father.

Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.

*Isaiah: The nations shall see Your righteousness and all the kings, Your **glory**.*

*Daniel 12:3 Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake. Some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And those who are wise **shall shine like the brightness of the sky above and like the stars forever and ever.***

Who hath ears to hear, let him hear. Two items: beginning of the book of Matthew, you have wise men coming to Jesus; end of the book of Matthew, you have Jesus going to the nations with His disciples. Two episodes: Jonah going to the godless; and the godless coming to King Solomon. Two realities in these parables: You have birds coming to the tree; leaven into the whole of the meal.

So next I want to talk about this **kingdom**. It's a great place. It's a great thing. It shows up often in the book of Matthew. It shows up so often that you cannot afford to go years and years without being able to define **the kingdom**.

You have Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, and Acts, "through tribulation you will enter the kingdom," and Romans, "the kingdom is not meat and drink and holidays, but love, joy, peace, and the Holy Ghost," and 1 Corinthians, "know ye not the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God," and over, and over, and over again, all the way to Revelation 12:10, "now the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ." The **kingdom** is

the New Testament message. You're not allowed to not know what it means. It's insanity to not know what it means. You're not allowed to let your eyes roll back in your skull every time you hear it mentioned in the passages of Scripture or in preaching or in teaching. It's absolutely irresponsible to do so. You're not allowed to. You say, "Well I might let it slip." You're not allowed to. You are not allowed to let this theme pass you. "I'm an American." God's not. You're not allowed to not know what **the kingdom** is talking about. "Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." You're not allowed to not know what that means. You're not allowed to be Biblically ignorant about this topic. And since in the Lord's Prayer we are told to pray, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven," then that is a second grand reason why we better know what we're praying for, because we're praying for it to come.

In this parable both the wheat and the tares, planted by separate parties, are planted in the world and gathered out of the **kingdom**. Let's remind ourselves of the Lord's Prayer: "Thy **kingdom** come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven." So headquarters is in heaven. That's why it's called **the kingdom** of heaven.

Now let me go ahead and just head something off at the pass, before your mind is eaten up with Schofield notes. There is no difference in the Bible between the kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of God. You say, "Well I believe there is." You're wrong. All you have to do to know that is put the parables side by side between Matthew and Mark, or Matthew and Luke, and you will notice that the parables are almost identical other than Matthew uses the term "Kingdom of Heaven."

*Matthew 6 Your **kingdom** come. Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.*

*Matthew 7:21 Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter into the **kingdom** of heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.*

There's nothing that will happen in the kingdom to come that does not fit perfectly within the character of the Father. Revelation 7 says, "They will serve God in His temple forever and every tear will be wiped away from his eye." I mean, we'll do work again without the curse. Adam was put in a garden to tend it before the fall, and he started sweating after the fall, and it didn't yield its increase after the fall. Can you imagine being able to work and all of your work produces fruit?

*Matthew 8:11 I tell you many will come from east and west, and recline at the table of Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob in the **kingdom** of heaven.*

The kingdom of heaven will be a place of refreshment and reunion. I don't want to reduce heaven to playing harps and eating food. I never understood where we got that image. "Can't wait for heaven. We're going to have the marriage supper of the Lamb," as if we're going to sit around and gorge ourselves. But, the reason the kingdom is called a feast in Matthew 20 is because of how amazing it will be. And I don't know why I'll need a mansion if I won't be tired. And I don't know why I'll need to eat if I'm never going to grow weary or need nourishment. Part of what will make heaven heaven is that people who don't belong there won't be there.

*1 Corinthians 15 There's one **glory** of the sun, another the moon, and another glory of the stars; and so it is with the resurrection of the dead.*

*Romans 8:16-19 The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, we're the children of God: and if children, then heirs, heirs of God, fellow heirs with Christ; provided we suffer with Him, in order that **we may also will be glorified with Him**. For I consider, I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed in us, or to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.*

*Colossians 3:1-4 If you then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is seated on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things of the earth. For you have died and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life appears, then will **you also appear with Him in glory**.*

Why are we shining forth with the radiance of the sun? Because we are with the Son as He shines forth with the radiance of the sun. And I would say probably that this is a great place to end up, in the last book: "And the city had no need of the sun."

*Revelation 21 Neither the moon to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring **their glory and honour into it**. They will see His face and His name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun; for the Lord God will be their light: and they will reign forever and ever."*

And so why do we shine forth with the radiance of the sun? And I was saying, "God, would You just give me a little taste of what that even means?" Well, apparently it is mostly because we are in the face of God. Now if you want an example of this, think of Moses meeting with God on the mountain (in Exodus 32-33). And when he came down, they made him wear a veil over his face because his face shined with the radiance of the sun. They couldn't look at him because he had a face that was just, it was too much. And why was it too much? Because he looked at God, it said, face to face.

This is the end of the story. The beginning of the story is, well, really, in the mind of God before the foundation of the world; but the beginning of human history has Genesis 3:9, where Adam and Eve are hiding from the face of God. When the sin is removed and the shame is removed and the curse is removed, then we can look at God in the face again and wear His glory. The future is bright. What a ridiculous pun. The future is bright!

Let's talk about now. The present is not so bright. The wicked one has come and sown his tares. It says in 13:25, "The enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way." He's awful snaky. We're not ignorant of his devices (2 Corinthians 2:7). He says, "Listen in, you're going to shine with the radiance of the sun." You say, "Well, I get that. It's on the page." No, no. You don't really get it,

Matthew 13:13 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy

*of Isaiah, which says, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive: For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. **And blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.***

*Matthew 13:43 He who has ears to hear, **let him hear.***

Only the wheat can hear. Only the good ground can hear and see and understand.

As a matter of fact, He wanted it so that He clouded their minds with parables. He said, “Lest they hear with their ears, see with their eyes, and their hearts are converted.” So as you look around and you feel like you’re the only one who really knows what’s going on, it’s because you are the only one who really knows what’s going on. The world is mad. They’re as mad as soldiers who get thrown back on their keister, staring up at the night sky, after Jesus’s “I Am” in answer to their question, “Who are you looking for?” ...on their backsides, staring up at a Judean sky. And then they get up, brush themselves off, and Jesus says, “Who are you looking for?” And they answered again. Insanity. You know why? They’re tares. They’re as insane as homosexual sodomites in Genesis 19, that are struck blind by the angels and then they grope for the doorknob to get inside to the angels that struck them blind! Insane. You know why? They’re tares. They have no idea. Behind the scenes the Son of Man sewing good seed and the enemy sewing tares.

So what? What about now?

*Psalm 34:3-5 Oh magnify the Lord with me, Let us exalt His name together. I sought the Lord, and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears. **Those who look to Him are radiant.***

David said, “Not in the kingdom to come, but right now. Those who look to Him: they’re radiant.” They’re radiant for a number of reasons, but since I’m not preaching Psalm 34, you’re stuck. I’m not going to talk about it.

*Matthew 5:14 **You are the light of the world.** A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it gives light to all that are in the house. So, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

And here is what Jesus says before He gets to chapter 13. “Just go ahead and play the part here. There’s going to come a time when there’s a harvest, and you will shine in the kingdom of your Father. And since you’re going to shine in the kingdom of your Father, just go ahead and shine for your Father now. Just go ahead and do it.”