

Great Stories of the Bible - 06/05/22

The Mystery Parables

TEXT- Matthew 13:1-23

INTRO – There are well known discourses and passages in the gospels that every believer should understand.

- The Sermon on the Mount - Matt. 5-7
- The Kingdom parables - Matthew 13
- The Olivet Discourse – Matt. 24-25

Matthew 13 - Christ outlines the “mysteries of the kingdom” and explains what the “kingdom of heaven” is like during this present age.

I. The Setting of the Parables

A. “Out of the house” Mat 13:1.

“The house” here refers to the literal house in which Jesus had been teaching, but it can symbolize the house of Israel **Mat 10:6**. By leaving the house, He was saying that He had left the nation and would now turn to the Gentiles.

B. “By the seaside” Mat 13:1.

The sea in Scripture stands for the Gentile nations of the world Rev 17:15. Christ now goes to the Gentiles and begins a new phase of His ministry

II. The Reason for Parables

A. The human reason Mat 13:10-17.

The condition of the people’s hearts. Christ quotes **Isa 6:9-10** to explain why He was using parables: the hearts, ears, and eyes of the people had become dull, hard, and blind. He was also hiding the truth from the rebellious **Matthew 11:25** *At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.*

B. The spiritual reason Mat 13:34-35.

The truths had been kept secret from the foundation of the world; they were a “mystery” **Romans 16:25** *Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,*

III. The Mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven

A. What is it?

It does not refer to an earthly kingdom. The kingdom of heaven is equivalent to our term “Christendom.” It is made up of all who profess Christianity.

B. When is it?

The kingdom begins with the sowing of the Word in Christ’s day and continues to the end of this age.

These parables reveal God’s program and Satan’s opposition.

I. Jesus explains the symbols for us:

A. The man is Christ Mat 13:37.

B. The seed is believers, children of the kingdom Mat 13:38

II. The Two “Seeds” in the Bible

A. Gen 3:15.

The Bible indicates there would be constant enmity between the serpent’s seed and the woman’s seed.

B. Cain and Abel.

1 John 3:12 *Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.*

C. The Pharisees and Jesus.

They opposed Christ **Mat 12:34**; and had Him crucified.

At the cross, Satan bruised Christ’s heel but Christ bruised Satan’s head

E. The End Times.

This enmity between the two seeds will finally culminate in a false Christ. The “**son of perdition**” will oppose the Son of God, the “**mystery of lawlessness**” will oppose the mystery of godliness.

III. The Lessons We Should Learn

A. The opposition

Satan opposes the work of God in several ways:

1. He snatches the Word of God from hearts, smothers the seed with worldliness, or scorches the shoots with persecution.
2. If he cannot overcome the Word, he plants false Christians (“children of the devil”) wherever the Lord plants true believers. Many people are going to hell, not because of gross overt sins, but because they have a “false righteousness” apart from faith in Jesus Christ.
3. He sits in the branches of “Christendom” and influences what goes on.
4. He plants false doctrine that deceives people.

B. Satan’s method.

Satan’s chief method of opposing God is through imitation. He preaches an imitation gospel, establishes imitation churches, plants imitation Christians, etc.

C. False growth

True and false will grow together until the end.

Our job is to plant the Word in hearts and let God “plant” us in places where we can bear fruit for His glory.

D. The last days

The “tares” will be bound together at the end of the age. In these last days, we see many organizations and even nations uniting for one purpose or another. We have world church organizations, world banks, world labor movements, world trade organizations, etc. In the religious world, denominations are getting together, organizations are merging for mutual protection. Some of these cooperative efforts may be profitable, but we wonder how many tares are being bundled for the burning?

IV. The Parable of the Sower

A. The symbolic meanings

- 1. The man (Sower) is Christ**
- 2. The seed is believers, sowing the word of the kingdom**
- 3. The ground is the heart of unbelievers**
- 4. The enemy is Satan**

B. The result of the sowing

- 1. The Way Side – The hardened soil doesn’t allow germination and the fowls (Satan) devours it.**
- 2. Stony places – Not much earth (Fleshly)**
- 3. The thorns – Choked by (The World)**
- 4. Good ground – Good soil germinates the seed to produce fruit. 100, 60, and 30-fold**

CONCL – Our job is to sow the seed and we don’t know what soil is good but we will eventually find good soil that brings forth fruit.

We may need to break up the fallow ground to prepare the soil.

Hosea 10:12 *Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.*

Jeremiah 4:3 *For thus saith the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem, Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns.*