

## **THE KINGDOM PARABLES FOT 2018**

### **DAY 7 30.9.18**

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Most Feast messages revolve around the future Kingdom.

Jesus talked a great deal about the Kingdom of God — one of His main messages — including even after His Resurrection.

#### **Acts 1:1-3**

1 The former account I made, O Theophilus, **of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,**

**2 until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen,**

**3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.**

One of the more popular methods that Jesus used to teach about the Kingdom was by parables.

Parables are essentially simple memorable stories.

It is good for us to refresh our understanding — especially at the Feast time.

We'll review some KEY KINGDOM PARABLES. Let's first remind ourselves why Jesus spoke in parables to the multitude.

#### **Matthew 13:1-3**

1 On the same day **Jesus** went out of the house and sat by the sea.

2 And great multitudes were gathered together to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.

3 **Then He spoke many things to them in parables,** saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow.

That's puzzling. Why? Because it is not given to them to understand.

#### **Matthew 13:10-17**

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; (this is spoken to the disciples)

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.

The truth which Jesus is expressing ... is only for the called!

### Matthew 13:34

34 All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them,

Curiously ... parables are only really of benefit if you already have understanding! Jesus often had to re-explain plainly!

The main way a parable works is by providing a comparison! "The Kingdom of Heaven is like ..."

Let's look at the first parable and possibly the key parable to them all.

## **Mark 4:1-20**

1 And again He began to teach by the sea. And a great multitude was gathered to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat in it on the sea; and the whole multitude was on the land facing the sea.

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. (*Meaning ... that they didn't get it!*)

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, (those outside the Family of God)**

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.' "

13 And **He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? (This is the key parable — the foundation. If you don't understand this one ... you won't understand the rest)**

14 "**The sower sows the word**. (*The sower sows the TRUTH!*)

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.*** (*Too many alternatives that distract us... that sucks away our attention*)

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***

Verse 13 — If you fail to understand this parable ... how will you grasp the rest?

This parable seems to be the key one. Thankfully ... Jesus explained it plainly!



It's important how we hear the truth. Many hear — but very few bear fruit.

### **Luke 8:1,8**

1 Now it came to pass, afterward, that ***He went through every city and village, preaching and bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God.*** And the twelve were with Him,

8 "But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold." ***When He had said these things He cried, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"***

If you've got ears ... are they open?

### **Luke 8:15-18**

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.***

16 "No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a vessel or puts it under a bed, but sets it on a lampstand, that those who enter may see the light.

17 "For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light.

18 "**Therefore take heed how you hear**. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him."

One of the key lessons of the Parable of the Sower is ... TAKE HEED HOW YOU HEAR! Be on guard. We need to hear ... and do!

#### **Luke 8:19-21**

19 Then His mother and brothers came to Him, and could not approach Him because of the crowd.

20 And it was told Him by some, who said, "Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see You."

21 But He answered and said to them, "**My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it.**" (*My intimate family are those who hear My words ... and do them!*)

Hear attentively— and do!

One big danger in hearing "wrongly" — is simply hearing only — and not doing!

#### **James 1:21-25**

21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and **receive with meekness the implanted word, (receive the truth)** which is able to save your souls.

22 But **be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.**

23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror;

24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

25 **But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.**

DON'T BE A FORGETFUL HEARER!

#### **Mark 4:24**

24 Then He said to them, "**Take heed what you hear.** With the same measure *(of care/attention)* you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given.

The measure of care (attention) that we give ... will influence the measure of understanding we receive.

This all backs up the necessity of spending good quality time in the Word. We hear plenty from "the world" — so we need God's Word to offset the influence of the world.

#### **Mark 4:26-29**

26 And He said, "**The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground,**

27 "**and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how.**

28 "**For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head.**

29 "**But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.**"

This shows a progression ... there is a time element to the Kingdom. Harvest isn't instantaneous!

Over time ... we should individually be showing signs of growth and maturity? Fruit is important to God? We should be making sure that we are productive.

#### **John 15:1-8**

1 "**I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.**

2 "**Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.**

3 "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

4 "Abide in Me, and I in you. **As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.**

5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. **He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit;** for without Me you can do nothing.

6 "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

7 "**If you abide in Me, and My words (the seeds that were sown in you) abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.**

8 "By this My Father is glorified, **that you bear much fruit**; so you will be My disciples.

You will prove to be My disciple if you bear much fruit — a good harvest.

#### **Matthew 13:44-46**

44 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is *like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid*; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is *like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls*,

46 "who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

This man recognises the value. The Kingdom of God is worth giving up everything else to obtain. In our lives there should be nothing more important. What is there that could equal life in the Kingdom for evermore?

#### **Proverbs 23:23**

23 **Buy the truth, and do not sell it,**

Also wisdom and instruction and understanding.

Buy the truth! Value it! Whatever truth you have — don't let it go!

#### **Matthew 16:24-26**

24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. (The cross is an instrument of execution. It means ... put your own desires to death)

25 "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

26 "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

Don't exchange anything for the Kingdom — even if offered the "whole world".

#### **Matthew 13:24-30**

24 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field;

25 "**but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.**

26 "But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.

27 "So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?'

28 "He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?'

29 "But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them.

30 '**Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn."**' "

There is going to be a separation of wheat and tares at some time. But what does that mean?

### **Matthew 13:36-43**

36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And **His disciples came to Him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field."**

37 He answered and said to them: "**He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.** (Jesus)

38 "**The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one.**

39 "**The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels.**

40 "Therefore **as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age.**

41 "**The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness,**

42 "**and will cast them into the furnace of fire.** There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

43 "Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. **He who has ears to hear, let him hear!**

The Church environment is not always going to be a safe environment — even among “Church people”.



We'd probably like to relax ... and "believe the best" ... but we need to maintain a watchful guard. The parable tells us there are tares among the wheat. And at the early stages ... you can't always tell the difference.

## **2 Peter 2:1-3**

1 But **there were also false prophets among the people, *even as there will be false teachers among you***, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves **swift destruction.**

2 And ***many will follow their destructive ways***, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.

3 By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.

There will be false teachers — among you!! **And** — they will deceive many!  
Quite a few tares by the sound of it.

## **Matthew 7:15-23**

15 "***Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.***

16 "***You will know them by their fruits.*** Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles?

17 "Even so, ***every good tree bears good fruit***, but ***a bad tree bears bad fruit.***

18 "***A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.***

19 "***Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.***

20 "Therefore ***by their fruits you will know them.***

21 "***Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.***

22 "***Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'***

23 "***And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'***

Wolves looking like sheep. Wolves looking like shepherds?

Tares of various sorts will be around till the end. So ... we will just have to remain alert ... watchful.

But eventually ... all bad things/people will be removed.

#### **Matthew 13:47-50**

47 "Again, **the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind,**

48 "which, **when it was full,** they drew to shore; and **they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away.** (*Separation*)

49 "**So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just,**

50 "**and cast them into the furnace of fire.** There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

Eventually ... there will be separation — the wheat from the tares ... the good from the bad ... the Sons of God from the sons of the devil. Until then — watch out!

#### **Matthew 25:31-46**

31 "**When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him,** then He will sit on the throne of His glory.

32 "**All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.**

33 "And **He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.**

34 "**Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:**

35 'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in;

36 'I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

37 "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink?

38 'When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?

39 'Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'

40 "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

41 **"Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: ('everlasting" ... "age-lasting fire" ... for a period of time ... not a fire that lasts for ever)**

42 'for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink;

43 'I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'

44 "Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?'. **(Jesus was never their Lord)**

45 "Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.'

46 **"And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."** *(the punishment lasts for ever ... it is not a question of being punished for ever ... just punished)*

A time of separation. Sheep and goats. Kingdom and Punishment.

### **Revelation 21:2-8**

**2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.**

3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "**Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.**

4 "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

6 And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.

**7 "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son." (The overcomers inherit everything)**

8 "**But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.**"

Ultimately — complete righteous separation in the New Heaven and New Earth.

All evil gone!

Righteousness forever — in God's Eternal Kingdom.

There are a few other "Kingdom Parables". Perhaps for some other time.