

Chapter Thirteen

Parables of the Kingdom of Heaven

I. Introduction (Mt 13:1,2,34,35)

- A. Jesus is still up in the area of the _____. Where he spend most of His time.
- B. Notice that He just sits down by the sea side and crowds of people gathered to hear Him! Oh that such hunger existed today! Oh that we had such power to preach and attract folks today! So many people arrive that Jesus moves out onto the sea to project His voice better to the crowds.
- C. _____ parables are taught in this chapter, all describing the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus teaches on the Kingdom of God in Luke 8
- D. Jesus used a lot of parables, but mainly with the _____ (13:34,35), not with just His disciples. Jesus almost always spoke plain to His close Disciples
1. Jesus was revealing truths unknown before
 2. Never taught in public without parables
 3. A parable is an “object lesson” - a story with a moral lesson attached
 4. Religion is the teaching of spiritual truths using physical truths
 5. A fulfilment of Psalm 78:2
- E. The main focus was the _____
- F. The Kingdom of Heaven is _____ than the Kingdom of God
1. There are times when the word “heaven” and “God” seem to be interchanged
 - a. Matthew 11:11 and Luke 7:28
 - b. Matthew 5:3 and Luke 6:20
 - c. Etc
 2. The Kingdom of Heaven is...
 - a. A distinctly Jewish term ONLY used in Matthew
 - b. It is a literal kingdom on earth with Jesus as King, and resurrected people in it (Mt 8:11)
 - c. This kingdom has been fought over (Mt 11:12)
 - d. This is the kingdom that Israel was expecting to come! And it will come whether people are seeking it or not
 3. The Kingdom of God...
 - a. Must be sought (Mt 6:33)
 - b. Not a visible kingdom (Luke 17:20)
 - c. A spiritual kingdom that is within people (Luke 17:21)
 4. The truth is that no one gets into the kingdom of heaven (millennium) unless they have entered into the kingdom of God FIRST (Salvation)

II. Lesson

- A. **Jesus Teaches About the Kingdom of Heaven** (15:3-52)
1. Again, these truths are not directed at understanding SALVATION, but at understanding the coming millennium
 2. **Parable 1 - The Parable of the _____** (13:3-9)
 - a. The parable is all about “_____”
 - b. Four kinds of soil are presented
 - c. Four effects on the seed
 - 1) _____ – hard, foot path
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____

- 4) _____
- d. The goal obviously is for seed to produce fruit
3. **The Reason Jesus used Parables (13:10-17)**
- Why speak in parables (13:10)? They are not clear, easy to understand, so why use them?
 - Jesus explains that _____. The kingdom of heaven is a mystery, and Jesus wants people to explore the mystery, not just collect information
 - The more we learn, the more we are taught!!! (Mt 13:12)
 - The less we are interested in God's truth, the more that God takes away what we do know!
 - Isaiah's Prophecy (Mt 13:14-15)
 - The disciples were the most blessed people because they got to be there when all the Old Testament prophecies were being fulfilled right before people's eyes
 - The Old Testament prophets yearned to see what they were seeing (Cf 1Pet 1:10,11)
4. **Jesus Explains the Meaning of the Sower and the Seed (13:18-23)**
- The word of the kingdom of "_____" – not about salvation yet, so, the context is when JEWS hear about the proper concept of the coming kingdom of heaven...
 - The birds are compared to "the wicked one" – _____
 - Notice how ALL of the seed is sown in people's hearts – it is not that some CAN'T receive the seed, it is that their hearts are HARD by sin (Heb 3:13)
 - The stony heart receives the word with JOY, but has no place for a root to grow – yielded no room in their life. Troubles will always reveal our heart. Offended means upset.
 - The thorns are cares, deceitfulness of success and riches
 - New word: hearing AND "_____"... accepting, applying, obeying
 - Again, the idea is that a person lives like they were designed by God – producing fruit
5. **Parable 2 - The Parable of the _____ (13: 24-30).** The kingdom of heaven is like:
- A man
 - Planting good seed
 - in HIS field
 - During the night – during this dispensation (1Thes 5:1-8; John 9:4)
 - His enemy – the devil, and the devil's "ministers" (2Cor 11:13-15)
 - Planted tares – "darnel weeds" – tares are fake wheat stalks. it was illegal by the Romans to do this to your enemy because it was such a bad thing! It would starve out a community
 - AMONG the good seed – intermingled them
 - Both wheat and tares appeared, but the farm workers discerned right away that there was not only wheat in the field. They wondered if they should start separating them from the wheat
 - The Farmer declared No because they would pull up the wheat along with the tares
 - The conclusion was to WAIT and let both grow together. At harvest, it will be easy to tell the difference then!
 - THEN you will burn the tares!
6. **Parable 3 - The Parable of the _____ (13:31,32)**
- The kingdom of heaven starts small like a single seed – a single grain
 - Sowed
 - Again, "in HIS field"
 - Smallest herb seed
 - Becomes the greatest herb bearing tree – not the greatest are largest tree
 - Will be full of birds – not a good thing
- Jesus has described a field full of wheat and tares
 - As well as a tree full of leaves and birds – demonic birds
 - So, by the time the kingdom actually comes, the spiritual realm that is leading up to the "kingdom" will be full of _____ and _____!!!
7. **Parable 4 - The Parable of _____ (13:33)**

- a. Leaven is yeast – another “small” item. The objects Jesus uses to describe the coming kingdom were always small and nearly ignored, yet they presented the truth about Christ’s coming kingdom!
- b. In this parable, a woman takes the yeast and hides it in the bread dough
- c. THREE measures full – three is a big number to remember – relates to Christ’s death. The millennium can only happen after the cross!
- d. The idea is NOT that yeast is the Gospel, but that the kingdom gets full of SIN before Jesus comes back at Armageddon
- e. Yeast is ALWAYS a type of sin (Ex 12:15) false doctrine (Mt 16:6,12), politics (Mk 8:15) and dishonesty (1Cor 5:8)
- f. A little leaven affects the whole “lump” of dough
- g. Jesus was warning about how even the kingdom of heaven was becoming full of everything but righteousness!

8. **The Parable of the Wheat and Tares Explained** (13:36-43)

- a. The sower is _____
- b. The field is the world
- c. The good seed are the children of the kingdom – true followers of God
- d. But the tares are the children of the wicked one – _____, _____ (John 8:44)
- e. The enemy that sowed them is the devil
- f. The harvest is the end of the world - _____
- g. And the reapers are the angels (see Rev 14:14-19)
- h. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.
- i. Hell fire is for:
 - 1) Tares
 - 2) All things that offend, and sin – that go against God
 - 3) There shall be wailing and gnashing of TEETH – what are TEETH doing in HELL and how are they gnashing, and burning if it is only the grave?!
- j. THEN, at the beginning of the millennium, at the establishment of the kingdom of heaven will the righteous shine forth!
- k. The millennium is referred to as “the kingdom of the Father” and not just of heaven

9. **Parable 5 - The Parable of _____ Hidden in a Field** (13:44)

- a. A hidden treasure
- b. In a field – the world – this time the field is NOT owned by him
- c. A searching “man” (Christ) finds the treasure
- d. He then hides it again in another part of the field so the owner doesn’t find it
- e. Sells all that he has and buys the field so he can own the treasure
- f. Obviously
 - 1) The hidden treasure is “a people” – Jews in the Old Testament, and believers in the New
 - 2) They are hidden in this current world system – not easily seen (we are just a bunch of sinners saved by grace)
 - 3) In order to get those people, God would have to become a man, and lose everything so that he could purchase the WHOLE field, just so that he could get the treasure in the world
- g. No Calvinism again! Christ BOUGHT _____ (1John 2:2; 1Tim 4:9,10; Heb 2:9), even though there are not many who believe! No “Limited Atonement!”

10. **Parable 6 - The Parable of the _____** (13:45,46)

11. **Parable 7 - The Parable of the _____** (13:47-50)

12. **The Disciples were now Scribes/ _____ of the Scriptures** (13:51,52)

B. **Jesus is _____ by the People of Nazareth** (13:53-58)

- 1. People were amazed, but were offended – attacked His credentials

2. They attacked His family
3. They questioned the power behind this Man (13:56) – Who is behind this Man?
4. They were OFFENDED at Him – he did nothing against them, but upset their worldview!
5. Jesus reminded them that a prophet always is honoured by everyone but his own family and own friends
6. And some of the saddest words were written – their _____ hindered His mighty works among them!