

“The Greatest Stories Ever Told”

“and He spake many things unto them in parables...” Matthew 13:3

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Oct 20th AM

The parables of Mt. 13 provide insight into the Kingdom of God. The first involves an Introduction as to how people actually become part of the Kingdom of God. (*Through receptive hearts*)

The next 3 parables reveal to us the subtilities of Satan’s Opposition to God’s Kingdom.

Mostly through infiltration! (False “tares”, False growth, False Doctrine)

The next 3 parables summarize the “Consummation” of the Kingdom at the end of this age as it relates to three distinct groups of peoples.

- The Jewish people (The Hidden Treasure in Vs 44)
- The true Church (The Pearl of Great Price in Vs. 45,46)
- Separating the False believers (Tares) from the True. (The Dragnet of Vs 47-50).

The “Consummation” of the Kingdom

1. The Jews (The Hidden Treasure in Vs 44) *“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.”*

A. A common misinterpretation. *Some believe that the treasure represents Jesus Christ.*

1) *We somehow “discover” Jesus and sacrifice everything to obtain a relationship with Him.*

2) **Some obvious problems with this.**

a) Jesus is not hidden.

b) We can’t “find Christ” because we’re Spiritually:

(1) Dead (2 Cor 2:14; Eph 2:1)

(2) Blind (2 Cor 4:4) *It’s Christ who finds the lost sinner! (Luke 19:10).*

c) Salvation can’t be purchased! *The man in the parable did not purchase the treasure; he purchased the whole field! See vs. 38*

It was Christ who paid this “purchased price.” Jn 3:16; Rev 5:9-10

B. A Biblically consistent interpretation.

1) The treasure is the nation of Israel Ps. 135:4; Ex 19:5-6 *“ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests...”*

a) They were meant to enrich the world with God’s ways, but they failed, and became a “buried” treasure. (See Mt. 25:18)

b) Jesus gave His all to purchase the whole world in order to save the nation (John 11:51).

2) Although Israel has been effectively “buried” God’s begun “digging” them up. *Jer. 29:11-14*

a) Politically, Israel was reborn on May 14, 1948.

b) Spiritually they remain blinded. Ro 11:25-26 *“blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. (But will eventually be reborn) And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:”*

2. The Church (The Pearl of Great Price in Vs. 45,46) *“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.”*

Several songs perpetuates the interpretation that this pearl is Jesus Christ and His salvation.

➤ But We don’t really find Jesus; He finds us!

➤ We can’t “afford” salvation, at any price; It is the gift of our Gracious God (Eph. 2:8,9)

A. The Bible makes a distinction between Jews, Gentiles, and the church (1 Cor. 10:32).

“Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:”

B. In Christ, (in His Church or “body” Ro 12:5) those distinctions are eliminated. Eph 2:

11 “Remember that ye being in time past Gentiles ... 12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: ... 13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. 14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; 13 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, ... for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; ... 15 Through Him we have access ... unto the Father”

C. Similarities between the Pearl and the Church.

1) The Pearl isn't formed by human hands. Eph. 2:10 *“for we are His workmanship”*

2) The Pearl is one. (Not divided or cut) Eph 4:3-6

a) This was on Jesus' heart in Gethsemane. John 17:21 *“that they may be one...”*

3) The pearl begins as an “irritation” that is covered by nacre (mother of pearl).

In Christ we are covered by the Grace of God and transformed by the Spirit of God.

4) The pearl keeps growing as long as it remains in the Oyster! Jn. 15:4

The only other place the Bible mentions pearls is in Rev. 21:21! Why Pearls in Heaven's gates?

3. Separating the False Believers (Tares) from the True. (The Dragnet)

Vs 47-50 *“the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: which, when it was full, they drew to shore, sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.”*

A. This is done currently at death. Heb 9:27 *“it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”*

1) The rich man and Lazarus Luke 16:19-31 and Mt 7:22,23

B. Will finally be done at the Coming of Christ (after the Tribulation.) vs 49,50

“So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, And shall cast them (the wicked) into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”

1) Jesus elaborated on this in Mt. 25: 31-46 *“When the Son of man shall come in his glory, ..., then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: 32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats: 33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ... 41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: ... 46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.”*

Conclusion: Matthew 13:51-52

“Jesus saith unto them, Have ye understood all these things? They say unto him, Yea, Lord.

Jesus then concluded with the final parable of Mt. 13.

“Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, brought forth out of his treasure things new and old.”

Application: Are you willing to strive to become:

1) As a Scribe so we can search for (discover) the Truth.

2) As instructed (disciple) so we can follow the truth.

3) As an householder (Steward/manager) so we can guard & share the Truth, so we can (vs 52): *“bring forth out of his treasure things new and old.”*