

## **THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 10/4-5/2021 *Matthew Chapter 13:31-58***

**PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!**

**MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)**

**THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS107, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

**MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484**

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**TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).**

**THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

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### **OPENING PRAYER**

**THIS WEEK'S STUDY: The Gospel According to Matthew! *Matthew Chapter 13:31-58***

**The Parable of the Mustard Seed – (vs. 31-32);**

**The Parable of the Leaven – (v. 33);**

**Prophecy and Parables – (vs. 34-35);**

**The Parable of the Tares Explained – (vs. 36-43);**

**The Parable of the Hidden Treasure – (v. 44);**

**The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price – (vs. 45-46);**

**The Parable of the Dragnet – (vs. 47-52);**

**Jesus Rejected at Nazareth – (vs. 53-58).**

**Theme of Chapter 13 – The Parables of the Kingdom of Heaven:**

- These Mystery Parables show the direction of the Kingdom after it had been offered and rejected by Israel. They reveal what is going to take place between the time of Christ's rejection and the time when He returns to the earth as King. With these parables our Lord covers the entire period between His rejection by Israel and His return to the earth to establish His Kingdom. These parables are important to help us of what to expect in the end times and to continue to steadfastly stand for Him and His truth!.

### The Mustard Seed and the Leaven

**Mat 13:31** *Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field,*

**Mat 13:32** *which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches." (Mar 4:30) Then He said, "To what shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what parable shall we picture it? [31] It is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth; [32] but when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade." (Luk 13:18-19) Then He said, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it? [19] It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and put in his garden; and it grew and became a large tree, and the birds of the air nested in its branches."*

- **The kingdom of heaven is like!** This term is used seven times in this chapter, giving a unique picture of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. The parables of the tares; the mustard seed and the leaven, all depict the corrupting nature and hindrance of Satan against the work in the kingdom of heaven.
- **Our Lord employed here mustard as a symbol** which He expected these people to understand. If we put ourselves back in their place, we will not have any trouble either. Mustard is a peculiar kind of seed, having an unusual quality, being pungent, biting, irritating and disturbing. This is what our Lord wanted them to understand.
- **The mustard seed is a very small, little seed, but when it is grown, it is one of the greatest** among the herbs. They all had their little herb gardens, and they would grow their anise, cumin and their various herbs, but the mustard seed was the biggest of the herb plants. This one had even abnormal growth in that it became a tree. Mustard herbs do not grow into trees. This is some kind of an abnormal growth. Our Lord is using a very apt symbol by which He indicates that the message of the kingdom of God is intended to be arousing, irritating and disturbing, among men. Turn it loose, and it will get a whole Kingdom of heaven excited, stirred up, either negatively or positively, as we see it working today.
- **The mustard plant is not a tree.** It does not grow into a tree. Then why did Jesus say it did? Right, there is the heart of the parable. Our Lord obviously intended to teach that this growth is unnatural growth. It is not normal, not what you would expect from mustard seed. It is something different than is to be expected. He is surely teaching that in this age there is to be an unnatural, unusual growth. Can you see that?
- **Instead of the lowly, humble plant you would expect from a mustard seed** there would be a huge, abnormal, ungainly growth into a tree, which would be loftiness, pride, ambition, domination of others, concern for self. That is unnatural growth from this kind of seed
- **As we look at church history, we see that the real abnormal growth of the church began under Constantine** when he joined the church and the state together, making it a state religion; adopting all of the Pagan festivals. He Christianized them, making them concurrent with certain Christian events, but picking up from Paganism and sort of making a combination of the whole thing. The church grew in an abnormal way, with all kinds of birds lodging in the branches, which is still true today.
- **In the Bible, the birds are always looked upon in an evil sense.** You remember the seed that fell by the way side, it was the birds. (Mat 13:19) *When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.* This is Satan, Jesus said, who comes and takes the seed before it can do anything, germinate or grow.
- **During the period of church history whenever** the church was greatly persecuted, where it really cost to be a Christian, that the church had real explosion as far as genuine conversion was concerned, reaching the world. But then when Satan compromised the church, its testimony became weak, watered down and the church had lost its influence in the world. There are those that just go along for the ride. When persecution arises, you'll see them no more. Some who are there, they remain but they never bear fruit. There are even birds that are lodged in the branches.
- **We need to search our own hearts as to how much of this unnatural growth is present in us,** even as Christians. How much are we reflecting that which is false and unnatural, rather than that which is true and right? How much do we embody that wonderful quality of mustard which cannot be ignored, which always

stirs anyone with whom we come in contact, yet which does not seek to grow into anything of position and prominence?

**Mat 13:33 Another parable He spoke to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened."**

*(1Co 1:9) God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (1Jn 1:3) that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.*

- **These two parables of the mustard seed and the leaven** are used many times to show that the kingdom of heaven is going to have a gradual influence in the world, until the whole world will be permeated by the influence of the church, as it spreads its influence over the world. Like leaven, the influence of the church will gradually permeate the whole loaf.
- **The problem with that is, leaven, in a biblical sense, is never good.** To the Jew, leaven was a picture of sin. The meal offerings were always to be without leaven. The Jews instantly understood that Jesus was talking about the fellowship of God with His people, a precious thing in the sight of the Lord, and about their oneness with each other as well. Leaven is actually a rotting influence. The leaven multiplies by rotting. Jesus later said to His disciples, *(Luk 12:1b) Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.* Leaven has the corrupting effect of destroying the fellowship of God's people.
- **Paul, speaking about an evil condition of incest within the Corinthian church, said, (1Co 5:6-7) Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? [7] Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.**
- **Hid in three measures of meal** – Often we can get a helpful understanding of a figure of speech by going back to the first reference in the Bible. In *(Gen 18:6) So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quickly, make ready three measures of fine meal; knead it and make cakes."*
- **In the sacrifices, the meal offering was the peace offering** which followed the burnt sacrifice offering. Now the burnt sacrifice offering was the offering of consecrating yourself to God. It was to be totally consumed. But the meal offering, after the burnt offering of consecration, was the offering of communion and fellowship. Now with Abraham, the three measures of meal was the communion and fellowship that he had with the divine beings that were there. Under the law, the meal offerings, signifying our fellowship with God, part of it was to remain with the priest; the other, you took, and you ate, and the idea was eating with God, supping with Him, partaking with Him, becoming one with God, a very beautiful experience.
- **We do not have a picture of the church gradually influencing the whole world for good.** Rather, in the context of Satan increasing opposing His work, Jesus announced that His kingdom of heaven would also be threatened by corruption and impurity.
- **Rather than this parable telling that the church is going to gradually have this influence of good** that will ultimately permeate the whole world, it is declaring that there will be within the church that influence of compromise and hypocrisy. Today, we find that the influence of the church in the world is waning. We are not gradually permeating the whole lump, but the church is gradually being permeated by weakness, forces of weakness and rottenness.
- **The usual interpretation is that the leaven is the gospel, and the woman is the church.** The church is to take the gospel and put it into the world of humanity which is represented by the three measures of meal. **The gospel quietly but surely will work away like leaven, like yeast in bread, until all of humanity is reached by the gospel and the whole world is changed.** Then, finally, the kingdom of heaven will come in. Though that is far and away the most popular interpretation of this parable, it is absolutely wrong! Based on that interpretation men have thought at various times and places that the church was going to introduce the millennium to the world!, that it would bring in the kingdom, that the gospel would so permeate the affairs and the thinking of men that the outlooks and insights and moral standards of Christianity would be universally accepted all over the world.
- **Now bring the parable picture together.** Our Lord is looking down the centuries to follow and He sees the thing which is most precious to God about the work which He Himself has begun among mankind.
- **This is the fellowship of God with His people,** the sharing of life with each other and with God, the family of God, the oneness of the body of Christ, with all the members sharing life in openness and honesty together under the love and forgiveness of the Father.
- **Our Lord is looking down the centuries to follow,** seeing the thing which is most precious to God about the work which He Himself has begun among mankind, the fellowship of God with His people, the sharing of life with each other and with God, the family of God, the oneness of the body of Christ, with all the members sharing life in openness and honesty together under the love and forgiveness of the Father.

- **Into that wonderful fellowship these false, evil principles are introduced by those church leaders**, who had the right and the authority to preserve this fellowship. It they who introduce the leaven into it, who permit it to come in and do not exclude it as they should. Those who are charged with the responsibility of developing the fellowship of God's people nevertheless allow hypocrisy, formalism, ritualism, rationalism, materialism, legalism, immorality -- all of these things -- to come in. When these things set into a church they destroy the fellowship of God's people. How instructive parable this is!
- **One of the rottenest things are these men who are called "biblical scholars" who have the audacity to tamper with the Word of God** and to declare what Jesus said and what He did not say, which are attributed to Him. I cannot understand the blasphemy of such men. It just is something that I cannot comprehend, how men would dare to tamper with God's Holy Word. But it is that influence of leaven.

### ***Prophecy and Parables***

***Mat 13:34 All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them,***

***Mat 13:35 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "I WILL OPEN MY MOUTH IN PARABLES; I WILL UTTER THINGS KEPT SECRET FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD."***

- **Jesus taught about the kingdom of heaven in parables is because the church itself** was part of that which had *been kept secret from the foundation of the world* and would not be revealed in fullness until later. Paul expresses this same idea about the church in (*Eph 3:4-11*) *by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power. To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

***The Parable of the Weeds Explained*** (covered in last week's study)

***Mat 13:36 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."***

***Mat 13:37 He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.***

***Mat 13:38 The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one.***

***Mat 13:39 The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels.***

***Mat 13:40 Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age.***

***Mat 13:41 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,***

***Mat 13:42 and will cast them into the furnace of fire! There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth!***

***Mat 13:43 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 Parable of the Hidden Treasure***

***Mat 13:44 "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.***

- **These parables now are to the disciples. Those others were to the people.** This parable and the one following are different in character than the previous three. Whereas the three parables (the wheat and the tares, the mustard seed, and the leaven) each spoke of corruption by the Devil in the kingdom community, the next two parables speak of how highly the King values the people of His kingdom!
- **The kingdom of heaven is likened to a treasure hid in the field.** The field is the world. The man does not represent the believer, because we have nothing with which to buy this treasure. Salvation is a free gift and cannot be bought! Jesus is the Man who gave all that He had to buy the field. (*Eph 2:8*) *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,*

- **Is not the treasure Israel?** (*Exo 15:16*) *Fear and dread will fall on them; By the greatness of Your arm They will be as still as a stone, Till Your people pass over, O LORD, Till the people pass over Whom You have purchased. (Exo 19:5) Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. (Psa 74:2) Remember Your congregation, which You have purchased of old, The tribe of Your inheritance, which You have redeemed—This Mount Zion where You have dwelt. (Psa 135:4) For the LORD has chosen Jacob for Himself, Israel for His special treasure. (Mal 3:17) "They shall be Mine," says the LORD of hosts, "On the day that I make them My jewels (treasure). And I will spare them As a man spares his own son who serves him."*
- **God has miraculously preserved Israel for almost 2,000 years** without a homeland, bringing them to a country status in 1948! (*Mat 24:32*) *"Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near."*
- **Jesus said, when a man is found, he hides in for joy over it He goes and sells everything He has and buys that field. Jesus is the One who gave all to purchase the world, the field.** He came for the purpose of redeeming the world back to God. He paid the price to redeem the world to God. When Jesus first came, at the beginning of His public ministry, Satan took Him to a high mountain. He showed Him all of the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them. He offered them to Jesus, saying if Jesus would compromise, just bow down and worship him. Satan knew His mission, saying, You can circumvent the cross, which is what he had been saying that all the way along.
- **When Jesus was with His disciples at Caesarea, Philippi, and they recognized that He is the Messiah,** the Son of the living God, He began to tell them how that He was going to suffer at the hands of man. That He would be crucified. Peter began to rebuke Him, saying, (*Mat 16:22-23*) *Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" [23] But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."*
- **Jesus recognized this suggestion that He could escape the cross, as being a suggestion from hell.** Now Jesus calls us to take up our cross, to deny ourselves, to deny the flesh life. Again, Satan says to us, Spare yourself! You do not want the cross. You do not want to deny yourself, spare yourself.
- **Jesus did not go Satan's route** but continued on the path that the Father had set for Him. By His blood, He ransomed His church which is the treasure. *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.*
- **For joy over it He goes.** He sells everything that He might obtain the treasure. In (*Heb 12:2*) *looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*
- **May we indeed consider, just how much we are loved by Him!!!**

### *The Parable of the Pearl of Great Value*

*Mat 13:45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls,*

*Mat 13:46 who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.*

- **Again, that merchant seeking beautiful pearls would be Jesus! The pearl of great price would be the children of the kingdom.** Again, we see how Jesus sold all in order to purchase us. He would happily give His all to have it forever.
- **One pearl of great price.** Even though in that day, a pearl was one of the loveliest of all possessions, especially to the Gentiles, **it would be extraordinary** for a merchant to sell *all that he had* for one pearl, but for this Merchant it was well worth it. We see here how much Jesus valued this pearl of great price, and how much He values His people. (*Eph 5:25b, 27*) *Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, [27] that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.*
- **A pearl! Why did our Lord choose the symbol of the pearl for the church?** Why didn't he use the ruby or the diamond, or any other jewel? The pearl is the only jewel which is the product of living matter. A pearl is the response of an oyster to something which causes it injury. A pearl grows out of hurt. It is formed when a little particle of sand or some other irritating substance gets inside the shell of the oyster, constantly irritating. The oyster has no hands with which it can brush the irritant out.. It has no means of defense except to transform that thing that is injuring it! What an apt and beautiful symbol our Lord has chosen here for the church!
- **God is working out a vast purpose!** We need to remember when you are going through times of hardship and difficulty, especially when you are going through difficult personal relationships. In the process of that,

through the heartache and the hurt, by His marvelous ministry to us, our Lord is turning what is injurious into a translucent, glowing, beautiful pearl. God is doing that with you and with me! As we go along, we can see layer after layer of shining nacre being added to the pearl, to make it a lustrous thing of beauty, a pearl of great price which the Lord, in divine anticipation, saw when He came, and for which He sold all that He had in order that He might purchase it for Himself.

- (Act 20:28) *Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. (Eph 1:14) who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.*

### *The Parable of the Net*

**Mat 13:47** *"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind,*

**Mat 13:48** *which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away.*

- **This parable seems to sum up everything. At the Galilee, they would perfectly understand the use of a dragnet, to bring in everything!** You cast out the net and you draw it in, and you got everything, some edible fish, some fish that are not edible, and all kinds of things can be drawn up in the net.
- **This is a description of what is going on in our present day.** The characteristic of the gospel which forces individuals out into the open where they as shown for who really are. It makes known what they are, just as a great dragnet sweeping through the seas gathering fish of every kind ultimately exposes whether they are good or bad, as our Lord makes clear. Continuing through our age, the radical truth of the gospel is like a net seining through the tides of restless, surging humanity, and whoever is caught in it is forced to declare himself, forced out into the open to reveal whether he is bad or good.
- **Bad or good**, the separation that will take place when the net is finally drawn in. This refers to how we respond to truth, to what happens when we come into contact with reality. That is the whole issue. The good are those who deal honestly with this reality, who when they learn something real and genuine about it respond to it, act on it, do something about it. The bad are those who, at best, turn their backs to it and say, "No, I don't like that, and I don't want to believe it; therefore, I reject it," or else, at worst, play the hypocrite, saying say, "Yes, I'll accept that," but yet I won't allow it to make no changes in their life and remain essentially evil within although outwardly they put on a garb of self-righteousness. That is what this parable is talking about.
- **Are you really changed by your contact with Jesus Christ and are you still changing?** Everyone in the congregation in one way or another has had a contact, a touch, with Jesus, has heard His voice. What has it done to you? What has happened?
- **Are you gradually moving more and more into wholesomeness, into health of spirit, into a departure from childish ideas and actions? Are you becoming genuine and loving and concerned for others?** Or does your form of Christianity leave you unchanged within, outwardly pious and respectable, outwardly part of the Christian community, singing the hymns, attending the meetings, doing all the expected things, but inwardly just as bitter and resentful, just as self-centered and concerned for your own ends, seeking after prestige and favor and advancement just as much as you always have been, perhaps more difficult to live with at home? That is what this parable is driving at.
- **When we are dealing with God we are not dealing with someone who can be bought off.** We are dealing with ultimate reality, striking deep into our lives and exposing whatever it finds. The only way we can meet this reality with any possibility of survival and chance of acceptance is with honesty, simple honesty, just saying what we are. Because, when we say that, then the healing glory of Jesus Christ is able to take us and remove the evil from our hearts and restore the good, to change us into the kind of people that we want to be, and which God wants us to be. May we pray, (Psa 139:23-24) *Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; [24] And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.*

**Mat 13:49** *So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just.*

**Mat 13:50** *and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."*

- **Jesus said that this distinction would be accomplished by the angels, not by men.** It is not the politicians who are going to promote this. Neither party is going to be able to accomplish what our Lord is setting forth here. The *casting them into the furnace of fire* is going to be done by angels.
- **Our Lord is simply indicating that the issue sharpens as we draw to the close of the age and that at the end it will no longer be possible to hide.** As He Himself said in another connection, "That which is hidden shall be revealed. That which is spoken in closets shall be shouted from the housetops." That which has been

hidden in obscurity and which we think we have gotten away with shall be exposed before the gaze of all. Nothing shall be hidden. Everything shall be uncovered. That is what this parable moves toward

- **Weeping speaks of remorse and sorrow. Gnashing of teeth speaks of frustration and hostility and anger.** It is all gathered up in the burning phrase "*the furnace of fire.*" I do not know fully what that means. And I do not like judgment any more than you do. I have always been uneasy whenever I have had to deal with these passages which speak of hell and judgment, of death and of the wrath of God. I do not like them because I do not like to think that God will have to do this one of these days. But I have been helped greatly by recognizing that, in the New Testament, the one who speaks most often and most solemnly about judgment and wrath and flames, etc., is Jesus Himself. The One with the outstretched arms, with the compassionate heart, who longs to heal sick and wounded humanity. He is the One who speaks also about the ultimate end of those who turn their backs and refuse the healing grace of God.

### *New and Old Treasures*

**Mat 13:51** *Jesus said to them, "Have you understood all these things?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord."*

- **How little they really did understand at that moment.** There are sometimes when we think we have comprehension of certain things, and then later we discover that our understanding was wrong. As time went on, we see the disciples really did not understand Jesus giving everything. They did not understand the cross. They did not understand the price that was to be paid for their redemption. It was not until later, after the resurrection that these pieces of the puzzle really began to fit together in their minds. But at this point, they thought they did, they said, Oh yes, Lord.

**Mat 13:52** *Then He said to them, "Therefore every scribe (head of the house, householder) instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old." (Neh 8:1-4a) Now all the people gathered together as one man in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate; and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded Israel. [2] So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly of men and women and all who could hear with understanding on the first day of the seventh month. [3] Then he read from it in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate from morning until midday, before the men and women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law. [4] So Ezra the scribe stood on a platform of wood which they had made for the purpose;*

- **Therefore every scribe instructed!** Initially, the "scribe" was to be helpful, having been taught the Word of God, being trained how God works the affairs of men. We remember Ezra. By Jesus' day they had become a group of legalistic, self-righteous teachers.
- **Here, Jesus is saying we believers are to scribes, being taught how God works** in the affairs of men, learning, gradually, the secrets of the divine activity behind the scenes of history, and behind the personal events in our own lives. We are to be trained, disciplined, in the secrets of the kingdom of heaven. It is the business of Christians to learn how to live, and to handle life rightly. We are here to learn to live realistically and with increasing success, to learn how to cope with life and handle its problems. In doing so we are to understand the process by which this takes place.
- **When you become a Christian you are introduced into a continually transforming process** which ought to exhibit increasingly the healing and the wholeness of life. We are all in that process. Nobody ever arrives at the end of it in this life. But it ought to be evident that visible and continual progress is being made, to know (**1Jn 5:20**) *And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. (Mat 24:35) Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.* That is what Jesus has come to tell us. That is what the Word of God is all about. It is the revelation of things the way they really are. To me the glory of being a Christian is that I do not have to go through all the agonizing pain of trying out everything that comes along. We can find out about it by the Word.
- **Who brings out of his treasure things new and old.** is constantly to discover how to take the things old and the things new -- the changing experiences of your life and the unchanging, eternal truth of God -- and bring them together, understanding life? We are to apply to life the great principles and teachings of the Scriptures and let that problem begin to be solved as the old begins to unravel the new.
- **That is what Christianity is all about. It is a life-healing process.** It is designed to change us and make us whole. Apart from visible evidence of that wholeness we have nothing to say to the world around. They must see this healing taking place in our midst. Jesus says that you can never speak with authority, you can never be a scribe, interpreting the Law, merely by having a "head" understanding of the doctrine of Scripture. Authority will come only as you have undergone the process of taking things old and things new and putting them together.

- **Out of that experience you can say, "Let me share with you a lesson God has taught me.** I got the clue from the Word, and I began to apply it to my situation, and this is what happened. God has healed, and I want to share this with you." That is the kind of Christianity to which the world listens and responds.

### *Jesus Rejected at Nazareth*

*Mat 13:53 Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished these parables, that He departed from there.*

*Mat 13:54 When He had come to His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, "Where did this Man get this wisdom and these mighty works?"*

*Mat 13:55 Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas?*

- **In Jesus' day they never questioned whether or not He could perform miracles.** Their question was, "When has this Man this wisdom? Where does He get His wisdom, and how can He do these mighty works?"
- **Now contrary to the teaching of the Catholic church, Mary did not remain a virgin.** The perpetual virginity of Mary is just a concept adopted by the Catholic church and as a part of their continued tradition, became ultimately dogma. The Catholic dogma is determined by how long it has been traditional within the church. Their dogma is then held on an equal par with the scripture, becomes as scripture. This, of course, is a real problem for them that they never really explained, but Jesus had brothers, James, Joses, Simon, Judas; sisters, who are not named.

*Mat 13:56 And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this Man get all these things?"*

- **When we get to heaven, it will be interesting to meet Jesus' sisters** and possibly learn more about how it was to be the younger sisters of the Messiah, as they were growing up?

*Mat 13:57 So they were offended at Him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house."*

- **Or among his own family.** Prophets are honored, but not in his own city, not among those of his own family. This is usually due to familiarity! How often do we enter into unbelief or inactivity through familiarity?

*Mat 13:58 Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.*

- **Which shows that Jesus did not do miracles just to prove to people,** though they did, but because of their unbelief He was not going to perform miracles in order to establish faith. Later on, when Philip said, *(Joh 14:8-11) Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." [9] Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? [10] Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. [11] Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.*
- In other words, it is better to just believe. I'm telling you this. I have told you this. It's best to just believe it there. Now these people did not, they were offended. He did not do many works there. He did not really manifest Himself there because of their unbelief. There is a certain unbelief that will not believe even though given evidence. Their hearts are set against Him. You've met them. I have met them. People who have just set their hearts against the Lord.
- **So now we come to a new dimension in the ministry of Christ; teaching by parables, dividing of those that understand and those that do not understand,** those who it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom, and those to who it is not given to know though they may hear, they will not understand or perceive. A definite division is now taking place as a result of the ministry of Christ. Next week, we will move on into chapter fourteen.

**Summary** – The Kingdom of Heaven Parables in Matthew 13: The Purpose of Parables – To reveal truth to those believing and seeking truth; To conceal truth from those rejecting truth. Each has a central point; cannot be dogmatic re doctrine

**To the multitudes and disciples:**

**The Parable of the Sower** –

**The Parable of the Sower Explained** – The word sowed throughout; Four types of receptive hearts;

**The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares** – Separation of wheat (sons of Kingdom) and tares (sons of the wicked one); separated at the end of the age!

**The Parable of the Mustard Seed** – Compromise; Abnormal Growth, Satanic birds lodging

**The Parable of the Leaven** – Satanic Rottenness and hypocrisy throughout

**To the disciples only:**

**The Parable of the Tares Explained** – Satan sows deceptive tares throughout

**The Parable of the Hidden Treasure** – Total sacrificial giving for treasure (Israel?) Can we sense Christ's unbelievable great love for us in these two parables of the treasure and the pearl?

**The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price** – Total sacrificial joyfully given by merchant for pearl (Gentiles, the Church?)

**The Parable of the Dragnet** – All will be brought in – Angels separate wicked from just

**Jesus Rejected at Nazareth** – Not recognized because of familiarity

**What great things He has done for us!**

**Closing Song:**

**GREAT THINGS** - Phil Wickham (4:50)

*Come let us worship our King Come let us bow at His feet He has done great things  
See what our Savior has done See how His love overcomes He has done great things He has done great things*

*(Refrain) Oh, hero of Heaven, You conquer the grave You free every captive and break every chain  
Oh God, You have done great things We dance in Your freedom, awake and alive  
Oh Jesus, our Savior, Your name lifted high Oh God, You have done great things*

*You've been faithful through every storm You'll be faithful forevermore  
You have done great things And I know You will do it again For Your promise is "Yes and Amen"  
You will do great things God, You do great things (Refrain)*

*Hallelujah God, above it all Hallelujah God, unshakable Hallelujah, You have done great things  
Hallelujah God, above it all Hallelujah God, unshakable Hallelujah, You have done great things You've done great things (Refrain)*

*You have done great things Oh God, You do great things*

**Closing Prayer:**

Assignment for next week: Read *Matthew Chapter 14*