

### Jesus Gave Three More Parables

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to explain the parable of the tares so that they can clearly explain to others how they can be set free from eternal judgment. This happens by coming to God in repentance from their unbelief and through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. In this topic, we will see that Jesus taught the disciples three more parables as He talked with them.

First, Jesus gave a parable about a hidden treasure. Matthew 13:44 says, ““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.”” In this parable, we see that the kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field. Christ explained to the Pharisees, in Luke 17:20-21, “Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, ‘The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, “See here!” or “See there!” For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.’” The Pharisees were looking for a political kingdom because they wanted to see the Romans expelled from their country immediately and a descendent of David placed on the throne as a political ruler. Revelation 20:1-6 tells us that an earthly kingdom is still in the future.

As a result, Jesus told the Pharisees that they were looking for the wrong thing because the kingdom of God was to be within them. This meant that they were to come to God in repentance for sin and with faith in their hearts. This is a key to remember in order to understand this parable and the next parable. In this parable, we see that the kingdom is like a treasure hidden in a field. In that day, because there were no banks, the people would sometimes bury their precious metals like gold and silver. Sometimes, many years later, a person might be digging a hole and suddenly find that buried treasure. Here, we see that he would cover the treasure and go and sell everything that he had in order to buy that field. According to Jewish law, such a treasure belonged to the person who owned the field; if he purchased the field, the treasure would belong to him.

Isaiah 65:1 says, ““I was sought by *those who* did not ask *for Me*; I was found by *those who* did not seek Me. I said, “Here I am, here I am,” to a nation *that* was not called by My name.”” Romans 10:20 quotes this verse from Isaiah to point out the fact that there would be many Gentiles who would turn to Jesus, even though they had not been seeking for Him. At the time of Christ, we see that most of the Jews were spiritually blind and refused to accept Jesus as the Messiah. Romans 11:25 says, “For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.” The Gentiles were found by Jesus, even though they were not looking for Him.

Then, we see that Jesus gave a parable about a pearl of great price. Matthew 13:45-46 says, ““Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had

found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.” This parable is similar to the previous parable with one big difference. In the previous parable, the man who found the treasure was not looking for a treasure but found it unexpectedly when he was digging in the field. In this parable, we see that a merchant is looking for beautiful pearls. In his case, he was searching and found a pearl of great value and sold everything he had in order to buy the pearl of great value. God had said through Isaiah, in Isaiah 55:6-7, “Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.” Here, we see that the Jews were invited to seek the Messiah.

At the time of the coming of Jesus to this earth, some of the Jews were looking for the coming of the Messiah. When Jesus was presented to the Lord as a baby, in Luke 2:29-32, Simeon said, “Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to *bring* revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.” Then, we see that Anna knew those who were looking for the coming of the Messiah because Luke 2:38 says, “And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.” Those who were looking for redemption in Israel were looking for the coming of the Messiah. Those who were looking for the Messiah turned to Jesus and received Him by repentance and true faith. They became a part of the kingdom because of the fact that the kingdom of God was within them.

We saw that most of the Jews rejected Jesus at His first coming. However, there will be a time in the future that the Jews will turn to Jesus. Romans 11:26-27 says, “And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: ‘The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.’” When Christ comes the second time, to be the ruler of the earth for one thousand years, as described in Revelation 20:1-6, we see that there will be both Jews and Gentiles in that earthly kingdom. Romans 11:32-33 says, “For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all. Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable *are* His judgments and His ways past finding out!” As a result, during the one thousand years described in Revelation 20:1-6, the Kingdom of God will be an earthly kingdom.

However, one day, the Kingdom of God will become an eternal kingdom. Isaiah 51:6 says, “Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look on the earth beneath. For the heavens will vanish away like smoke, the earth will grow old like a garment, and those who dwell in it will die in like manner; but My salvation will be forever, and My righteousness will not be abolished.” Isaiah 9:6-7 says, “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of *His* government and peace *There will be* no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.” Here, we see that the kingdom of God will last forever.

We see that Jesus also gave the parable of the dragnet. Matthew 13:47-51 says, “‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Have you understood all these things?’ They said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord.’” In that day, a dragnet was used by fishermen as they fished for fish. The fishermen would put weights on the net and then drag the net along the bottom of the Sea of Galilee. Such fishing would gather both fish that were good and could be used, as well as fish that were unfit to eat and other things near the bottom of the sea.

Jesus used those dragnets and fishermen to illustrate what will happen when the time of judgment comes. The fishermen gathered the good fish into containers. In the same way, Jesus will gather all true believers into His eternal kingdom. However, there are also those who only pretend to believe in Jesus. God told Samuel in 1 Samuel 16:7, “But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For *the LORD does not see* as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.’” At the end of the age, Christ will reveal the hearts of true believers and then the angels will go and separate the wicked from the just. The just are described in Romans 5:1, where we read, “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” All who come to God, through Christ, in repentance and faith, have been justified or made just.

In contrast, Romans 3:21-24 says, “But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” All those who have remained in their sins have not been made just. Jesus said that they would be cast into the furnace of fire where there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Revelation 20:15 says it this way, “And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.” In these verses, we see that all those who choose to reject Jesus will experience judgment for all eternity because of the choice that they have made.

Then, Jesus asked His disciples the question, “Have you understood all these things?” Here, we see that Jesus knew that it was very important for His disciples to understand the parables about the kingdom because they would need to be able to explain them to others when Jesus returned to heaven. We see that the disciples told the Lord that they did understand the parables that He had given to them that day. We will see in the next topic why it is so important that everyone who becomes a disciple of Jesus is able to explain the parables, as well as the many other things that Jesus taught His disciples. In the same way, it is important for us to help our physical and spiritual children grow in their understanding so that they can pass on what they have learned to others. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children learn to understand the things Jesus taught.