

Calvary Chapel on the Horizon
February 26, 2023
Matthew chapter 13 “Parables”

I. Introduction: Read: Matthew 13:1-9

† Chapter 13 turns a corner in Jesus’ teaching – He transitions to parables...

† The idea behind the word *parable* is **“to cast or throw along side of.”** It is a story thrown alongside the truth intended to teach. Parables have been called “earthly stories with a heavenly meaning.”

II. Speaking in Parables

Matthew 13:10-17 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? 11 He answered and said unto them, because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. 12 For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. 13 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. 14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: 15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. 16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. 17 For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

† He used parables so that the hearts of those rejecting would not be hardened further. The same sun that softens the wax hardens the clay; and so the very same gospel message which breaks down honest hearts and leads to repentance, hardens the hearts of the dishonest and confirms them in their path of disobedience.

† In this sense, the parables of Jesus were not illustrations making difficult things clear to all who heard. They were a way of “encoding” God’s message so the spiritually sensitive could understand, but the hardened would merely hear a story without heaping up additional condemnation for rejecting God’s Word.

† Parables are an example of God’s mercy towards the hardened. The parables are given in light of Jesus’ rejection by the Jewish leaders, mercy given to the undeserving.

(v14) And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled: By speaking in parables, Jesus also fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah 6:9-10 speaking in a way that the hardened would hear but not hear, and see but not see.

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III. The Sower Explained

A. The Wayside

Matthew 13:18-19 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

- † **The wayside speaks to a “hard” heart that will not receive the Word of God into their lives.**
- † **Spurgeon:** “It is easy for birds to pick up seed which lies exposed on a trodden path. If the soil had been good and the seed had entered it, he would have had far greater difficulty. He might even have been foiled. But a hard heart does the devil’s work for him in great measure. He need not use violence or craft. There lies the un-received word on the surface of the soul, and he takes it away. The power of the evil one largely springs from our own evil.”

B. Stony Ground

Matthew 13:20-21 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; 21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

- † **Stony ground speaks of those who receive the word right away (anon) with joy but DON'T count the cost.**
- † **Examples of this might be:**
 - **one who gets caught up in emotionalism**
 - **one who goes along with the crowd or**
 - **one simply does not realize the impact of the “call” to follow Jesus.**
- † **The end result when trials and problems occur, or the need to die to one’s self arises, the stony ground hearer says, “No way!” and walks away. These who walk away are not saved in the first place – they do not appreciate the great love and the great sacrifice required and involved in the availability of Salvation!**

C. Weedy Ground

Matthew 13:22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

- † **The cares of the world include: children, hobbies, jobs, addictions, etc...anything that holds you back from being and doing all that God desires for your life.**

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D. Good Soil

Matthew 13:23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

† Good soil is a heart that "Wants to receive" what God has for them through His Word

† The proof of good soil is that it "Bears fruit":

- (Holiness) Romans 6:22 ye have your fruit unto holiness
- (Good character) Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love,
- (Praise) Hebrews 13:15 the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.
- (Good works) Colossians 1:10 being fruitful in every good work

IV. Other Parables

A. The Wheat and the Tares

Matthew 13:24-30 Another parable put He forth unto them, saying, the kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which 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 blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. 27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? 28 He said unto them, an enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? 29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

(For the explanation, let's jump down to...) **Matt 13:36-43** Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field. 37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; 38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; 39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. 40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so, shall it be in the end of this world. 41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; 42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then

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shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

- † **Darnel seeds grow up just like wheat, but don't head out and bow down.**
- † **Many may start out looking like Christians, but in the end the true ones are walking humbly with the Lord (bowing down to Him).**
- † **Micah 6:8 reminds us to walk humbly with our God?**
- † **And yet, here, we find that there may be many “false” believers in the church at large...but the Lord knows them by their fruits.**

B. Mustard Seeds

Matthew 13:31-35 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, the kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: 32 Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof. **33** Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened. 34 All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them: 35 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.

- † **Going back to the parable of the sower...the birds are Satan's helpers and leaven is always a picture of sin in the Bible...**
- † **A mustard plant doesn't grow into a tree – there must be artificial growth to be large enough to hold the birds...meaning the church will be artificially large full of unbelievers and compromise.**

V. Parables to the Disciples

A. A Pearl of Great Price

Matthew 13:44-46 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto 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. 45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: 46 Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

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† **Jesus found us and “bought us” with the price of His own body and blood!**

† **1 Corinthians 6:20** For ye are bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

† **A pearl is created by an irritating grain of sand in the Oyster. The Oyster surrounds it with a substance that over time creates the pearl. The pearl is ONLY good if it is intact. If broken or cut it loses its value.**

† **Similarly, the church is made strongest when it is able to endure hardship and tribulation.**

B. The Net

Matthew 13:47 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: 48 Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away. 49 So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, 50 And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

† **This is simply a restatement of the Wheat and the Tares – the good and bad separated.**

C. Have You Understood?

Matt 13:51-52 Jesus saith unto them, have ye understood all these things? They say unto him, Yea, Lord. 52 Then said he unto them, therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is a householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old.

† **We’re to not just “KEEP” the things of God, but to share them as well, both old truths and new based upon Jesus’ teachings.**

† **Good stewards are required to be found faithful (1Cor 4:2) and if we are to be faithful we must share the messages and truths of the Old Testament and the New Testament.**

- **“GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST”**
- **The knowledge that we have been set free**
- **That Jesus wants us to have an ABUNDANT LIFE**

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VI. Conclusion

Matthew 13:53-58 And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these parables, he departed thence. 54 And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works? 55 Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? 56 And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things? 57 And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house. 58 And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

- † **From an apologetics perspective, both in looking at the word “brothers” (which means a brother from the womb) and seeing the context, we see that Jesus did indeed have siblings – this leads us to understand the false tradition from the Catholic church about Mary’s perpetual virginity. She was a special lady but she is not Devine nor is she a co-redemdrix. She was just a woman – a human just as we are and was chosen for a special role.**

- † **But, going back to the heart of this passage...Hebrews 11:6** But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

- † **Where is your faith? Remember, faith is NOT believing that God “can” ...rather it is believing the God “WILL” ...**