

Kingdom of God Part 5

Steve Berger May 1, 2016

The Kingdom of God

- The Kingdom of God is the Rule and Reign of God
- The Kingdom of God is a future realm where the fullness of Kingdom glory happens. (*heaven*)
- The Kingdom of God is the realm of God we enter now, through our new birth, in order to experience the blessing of God's reign now
- We position for tastes by Spiritual Poverty, Childlikeness, Faith, Obedience, Patience, Prayer, Openness

The Mystery of the Kingdom

Begin a look at the Mystery of the Kingdom — *how it operates, and functions in ways both "old and new."* Matthew 13 is the most concentrated and detailed of Jesus' teaching on the Kingdom in the entire Bible.

The only way to understand the significance of Matthew 13 is to understand the backdrop of what everyone perceived the Kingdom would look like as Jesus announced its presence among them

Question — *What did everyone anticipate the Kingdom looking like?*

- **Daniel 2:44**

And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

They just knew the Kingdom would mean the complete destruction of all of their enemies, and that the visible powerful Kingdom of God would be set up in Jerusalem. Their eyes were on the natural/physical and not on the spiritual aspects of the Kingdom.

Jesus teaches them what the Kingdom must look like first, before the eventual destroying of all God's enemies. He's explaining the "mystery of the Kingdom," Mark 4:11, that there are indeed **two facets** to it — Kingdom Now — Kingdom Later.

Parables — ***not to look for truth in every detail***, some details are merely cultural color to help with the flow of the story. ***Don't get distracted in parabolic details, additional applications can be made, but keep the main thing the main thing.***

Today's Kingdom parables — Soils; Wheat and Tares; Dragnet; Mustard Seed; Leaven; Hidden Treasure / Pearl of Great Price

Soils

- **Matthew 13:3-9**

Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: “Behold, a sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

- **Matthew 13:10-17**

And the disciples came and said to Him, “Why do You speak to them in parables?” He answered and said to them, “Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: ‘HEARING YOU WILL HEAR AND SHALL NOT UNDERSTAND, AND SEEING YOU WILL SEE AND NOT PERCEIVE; FOR THE HEARTS OF THIS PEOPLE HAVE GROWN DULL. THEIR EARS ARE HARD OF HEARING, AND THEIR EYES THEY HAVE CLOSED, LEST THEY SHOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES AND HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, LEST THEY SHOULD UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEARTS AND TURN, SO THAT I SHOULD HEAL THEM.’ But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.”

Warning — *when you are a religious person who goes through the motions, yet allows your heart to become dull, hearing to become hard, and intentionally close your eyes — you miss the kingdom and its understanding.*

- **Matthew 13:18-23**

“Therefore hear the parable of the sower: 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. But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

Soils — *Kingdom is here but NOT with irresistible powers, totally unlike their expectation! Like a man sowing seed, not forcing, demanding itself upon people — it is possible not to hear it, not to understand it. You can respond shallowly, having intellect or emotions stirred but NOT a change of your will. When times get tough, you bail, no depth! You can receive in thorny way, allow the carnal and prideful to choke the spiritual and humble. Or, you can bear fruit — because you're all in.*

Soils teach us — *God will not make anyone bow to the Kingdom and its ways now, the Kingdom can be rejected — for those that reject, they will be made to bow later — every knee will bow — as we see in the next parable...*

Wheat and the tares

- **Matthew 13:24-30**

Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. So the servants of the owner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’ He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The servants said to him, ‘Do you want us then to go and gather them up?’ But he said, ‘No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, ‘First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

- **Matthew 13:37-43**

He answered and said to them: “He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. 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, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

***Wheat and Tares** — good and bad will grow together, bad will look like good for a time — but are impostors, actors in the church building. One of the first three soils... Judas, Perverse, Acts 20:29-30. Mixed multitude in church buildings, but not in The Church. Ultimate separation and judgment will happen.*

Dragnet

- **Matthew 13:47-50**

“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.”

Mustard Seed

- **Matthew 13:31-32**

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, 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.”

***Mustard seed** — Kingdom is now tiny, insignificant and small, but still the Kingdom. Don't be discouraged, Kingdom is not to be despised. It will be great one day. Patience!*

Leaven

- **Matthew 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.”

Leaven — same as mustard seed, small, insignificant, hidden, unseen, swallowed by larger dough. One day the whole dough will be leaven, but not now. Proper perspective now — protects us from discouraged disillusionment.

Hidden Treasure / Pearl of Great Price

- **Matthew 13:44-46**

“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.”

- “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.”

Hidden Treasure / Pearl of Great Price — though small and hidden, its value transcends every other possession, and you do whatever you must to secure it for yourself.

Additionally — Jesus is the Man and the Merchant, the church is the treasure and the pearl. He paid the ultimate price to purchase us for Himself! How can we NOT respond to Him with everything we've got?

New and Old

- **Matthew 13:51-52**

Jesus said to them, “Have you understood all these things?” They said to Him, “Yes, Lord.” Then He said to them, “Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old.”

Old — “I’m bringing you old Kingdom truths — power, judgment, destruction is coming for God’s enemies, make no mistake about it.” — Just because it hasn’t happened yet doesn’t mean it’s not going to.

New — “I’m bringing you some new Kingdom truths, Kingdom now will not force itself on anyone, it can be rejected, neglected, forsaken.” — Make sure you don’t do that.

Now — the righteous and the wicked will grow up together — be careful, pay attention, don’t become disillusioned or discouraged by the tares’ actions, understand it. Follow Jesus’ example, not the tares’ examples.

Now — the Kingdom might seem small, hidden, insignificant by the world’s standards — but it’s value and worth are priceless — worthy of your giving up your whole life to secure its blessing, beauty, and benefit. Don’t be short-sighted!

THIS — gives us a further look into what the **Kingdom of God is like, right now!**

Discussion Questions

1. What is one of the primary things to remember when studying parables?
2. In the parable of the sower and the seeds, do you know close family and friends who are different kinds of soil? Have you always been fertile soil?
3. What is the overarching kingdom truth of the parable of the soils?
4. Have you ever been guilty of being a tare among the wheat in your church? How? What changed you?
5. What are the Old Kingdom truths in these parables?
6. What are the New Kingdom truths in these parables?
7. Who do you know that needs to understand what life-changing choices there are to be made?

House of Prayer

**JOIN US —
HOUSE OF PRAYER**

Tuesday, May 10th

6:30 p.m.

sanctuary

**Make your prayer requests
by going to www.gracechapel.org
click on *Prayer***

Tennessee Decision America Tour Prayer Rally with Franklin Graham

**JOIN US —
Tuesday, May 3rd**

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

**Legislative Plaza
Tennessee State Capitol
Nashville, Tennessee**