

Series: The Kingdom Parable

Title: Little to Large

Text: (Matt 13:31-33)

7 Kingdom Parables

4 are Public, given to all from the boat.

3 are Private, for the disciples, in the house.

Given in *Mystery* form.

(Vs 10) “*Why speakest thou to them in parables?*”

(Vs 11) “*Because it is given to you to know, but not them*”

Because God loves them less? NO.

Because God loves the disciples more? NO

He gives the answer in vs 12.

(Vs12) “*For whosoever hath,*”

(Speaking of an open, pure heart)

Not relying on their own Self Righteousness.

“*to him shall be given, and shall have more abundance:*”

Eternal life, direct Access to God, A Home in Heaven

(Much Greater than we have now)

“*but whosoever hath not,*”

(Speaking of no having an open, pure heart)

The Self Righteous cannot be saved,

Because they do not believe they are lost.

They do not believe they need a Savior.

They believe they have attained already!

Illus: Figuratively thumbing their nose at God!

“*from him shall be taken away even that he hath.*”

Empty, powerless religion, Formalism, Self Righteousness.

What is the Kingdom of Heaven?

This is not referring to the Millennial Kingdom
This is the Kingdom on earth during the Kings’ absence.

This Kingdom is not “The Church”

The Church is part of the Kingdom of Heaven, but distinct from it.

The Kingdom of Heaven~All Christendom; All the Saved.

Why Use Parables?

The Earthly Reason:

(Vs 13) By using Parables, Jesus was exciting the curiosity of the concerned -Those who wanted to know and learn the truth.

He was hiding the truth from them that would not hear it, and giving them a false sense of security by understanding it, is not helping their situation.

(14-15) He is quoting (Isaiah 6:9-10)

(16-17) You are Blessed b/c your hearts are pure.
(Ps 78:2) says that these mysteries were hidden since the foundation of the world.

A mystery is a Truth, that has been hidden in ages past, but now is revealed by God through Christ.

The OT is the NT Concealed - The NT is the OT Revealed.

The Time of the Kingdom

With the Preaching of Christ, we see the beginning of the Kingdom Age, and it continues till the King returns.

4 Public Parables

1st: In the Parable of the Sower, Christ is dealing with the Individual.

4 types of Soil= 4 conditions of the human heart.

The Sower is Christ

The Seed is the Word of God.

The Wicked One is Satan. His objective is to oppose the Kingdom and it's expansion into other people, making them believers.

He Snatches the seeds away.

Starves the seed out.

Smothers the Plant, rendering it unfruitful.

2nd: In the Parable of the Wheat & Tares: (Vs 24-30)

Where ever Jesus plants true believers, Satan's opposition is by planting false christians who oppose the work and hinder the harvest.

A Tare, is a weed, that looks Identical to Wheat.
You can only tell the difference by the fruit that is produced.

"If you can't Beat 'um, Join 'um."

Self Righteousness will send you to hell just as much as All Out Sin!

This is Satan's main tactic.

He learned the hard way is the book of Acts.

Outward persecution is a short term gain, but a longterm loss for Satan.

1st Century Christianity exploded under persecution.

In poor countries, or under totalitarian rule, does Persecution unto death work effectively.

In affluent nations Copy and Confuse is his best option.

The more he killed and destroyed the more the gospel spread

So He fights from the inside also.

False Believers, created from False Bibles, create False Churches.

Paul saw this already beginning in his day! (Acts 20:29-32)

Our only defense is to be awake, & in the Book!

Why does God allow this? (1 Cor 11:18-19)

So the real ones will be made apparent!

So you can tell the Difference!

Remember: A Tare, is a weed, that looks Identical to Wheat.

You can only tell the difference by the fruit that is produced.

That is why Jesus said, *“By their fruits, ye shall know them”* (Matt 7:16, 20)

Once they grow together, you cannot pull the weed/ Tare without dislodging the wheat.

That is why, when someone gets upset and leaves a church, ask yourself.

Are they leaving over a Biblical issue?

Or are they leaving because of a personality conflict, or because they got their feelings hurt?

Do you quit your job over these issues?

Because every time someone gets mad and leaves, they always take some other family with them.

This is not Judging, for we are commanded to...

“Try the spirits”: (1 Jn 4:1-3)

RECAP: Satan’s tactic is to Counterfeit, Confuse, Corrupt.

3rd: The Parable of the Mustard Seed: (Vs 31-32)

“Least of all seeds”

The mustard seed, while not actually the smallest seed known, was a proverbial illustration of what is small, in that region & Time period.

The Kingdom started Small, but would grow to exponential size.

The Jews expected the Kingdom to be like a great tree under which the nations would find shelter.

They could not understand the message.

How could an insignificant son of a carpenter lead them to freedom.

How could the proclamation of such a glorious Kingdom have anything to do with the poor little band of Jesus' disciples?

Rejected by the religious leaders,
Welcomed by tax collectors and sinners,
Jesus looked more like a deluded dreamer than the
bearer of the mighty Kingdom of God.

The smallness & relative insignificance of what was
happening in Jesus' earthly ministry does not
compare to the reach the Kingdom of God has had
since.

And the Kingdom of Heaven is still expanding.

Even Today:

The Gospel seems like it is of no consequence.

It's Too Easy, Too Simple, Too Childish.

No place for personal achievement.

Makes No Sense!

*(1 Cor 1:18) For the preaching of the cross is to
them that perish FOOLISHNESS; but unto us which
are saved it is the power of God.*

*(1 Cor 1:21) For after that in the wisdom of God the
world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by
the FOOLISHNESS of preaching to save them that
believe.*

*(1 Cor 1:23) But we preach Christ crucified, unto the
Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks
FOOLISHNESS;*

*(1 Cor 1:25) Because the FOOLISHNESS of God is
wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger
than men.*

*(1 Cor 2:14) But the natural man receiveth not the
things of the Spirit of God: for they are
FOOLISHNESS unto him: neither can he know them,
because they are spiritually discerned.*

*(1 Cor 3:19) For the wisdom of this world is
FOOLISHNESS with God. For it is written, He
taketh the wise in their own craftiness.*

*(Matt 13:32) but when it is grown, it is the greatest
among herbs, and becometh a tree,
It grows beyond anything humanly possible.*

*Illus: Ever seen concrete or asphalt side walk,
driveway, or road buckle and crack because of tree
roots?*

God's Kingdom power is unstoppable.
There is nowhere the Kingdom of God cannot reach.

So, It obviously attracts Satan's attack.

*so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the
branches thereof.*

He targets those in upper leadership with his
relentless attacks, to hurt those that are following.

We have a fabulous day, but someone will complain

Air Conditioner set too high, set too low.

Coffee is too strong, or too weak.

No place to park.

Pastor made Service go too long,

Pastor let the service go too short -

HOLD IT, sorry, no one ever complains that it goes too short.

Pastor had us Sing too many Hymns,

Pastor didn't sing enough Hymns.

All that Pastor wants is money.

It's Ok to let birds fly around your head, but don't let build a nest.

Thoughts come and go, you decide which ones stay!

God's Kingdom power is unstoppable.

But, It started off small.

4th: Parable of the Leaven: (Matt 13:33)

Leaven is also known as Yeast.

In this Parable, The Kingdom of Heaven starts off small and permeates all it comes in contact with.

Christianity is not a work you DO.

Christianity is a Work done IN you.

(2 Cor 5:17) Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

At Salvation, we are like a new born baby.

(1 Pet 2:2) As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Just as babies have to taught to Crawl, walk, run feed themselves, clean up their messes.

Christianity is a growing process.

We get saved & God saves our soul;

But there is whole lot of lives that He has no control over until we give it to Him.

The Longer we walk with God, the greater influence God supposed to have over our lives.

Leaven is also known as Yeast.

When you bake bread, it is the Yeast that makes the bread rise.

When someone makes bread,

They mix in a little yeast in the dough,

Chemical process of fermentation permeate the loaf.

The Influence of the Kings of Heaven's Domain should be expanding Exponentially in our lives.

There is no place the King of Heaven's Domain can't Go. In the Parable of the The Mustard Seed:

No Human being is beyond salvation.

There is No Country or people group that the Kingdom cannot expand into.

Just Like the Leaven, permeates the whole lump.

The Domain of the King of Heaven should be ever expanding to permeate every area of our lives!

Just like the Leaven permeated all 3 measures of meal The Domain of the King of Heaven should go beyond us to permeate the lives of others we come in contact with.

Leaven; typically used in the bible as a picture of Sin

(1 Cor 5:6) *A little leaven, leaveneth the whole lump.*

A Little Sin, left unchecked, corrupts a person's entire life.

A Little False Doctrine in a church, corrupts the whole church, it's mission, and it's effectiveness.

The first 2 parables talk about how Satan Hinders God's Kingdom.

Parable of the Sower.

He starts with the individual before they get saved,
by... Snatches the seeds of truth away.

Starves out the seeds of truth.

After Salvation:

He Smothers the Truth in the new believer, and thus rendering them unfruitful.

Parable of the Wheat & Tares

Satan also hinders the Kingdom by attacking the local church by using Copies, Counterfeits, & Confusion.

He places false christians, who desire to be in leadership.

This is why Baptism is such a big deal!

He places False Doctrine by using False Bibles.

This is why the King James is such a big deal.

If you are Lost, or unsure if you are Truly Saved:
Stay Focussed on the Message, Call on Christ to save you The Temptation will be to ignore it or put it off till later.

(2 Cor 6:2) *(behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)*

Illus: *So if it is not God telling you to ignore it or put it off, by process of elimination; WHO IS Telling you to ignore it, put it off, or is distracting you from it?*

You just heard Satan's voice, keeping you from being saved. He trying to SNATCH the seed away.

Sounded like your voice, I know, but it was him.

He is that good at lying!

If you are saved, but you are just overwhelmed with life: Stay Faithful.

Satan is trying to smother you with non-important, urgent things to make you unfruitful.

These are not sinful things, just things that would get re-prioritized when God allows a health issue or financial issue in your life.

(Heb 10:25)

Illus: If God is not the one telling you to skip church services, by process of elimination, WHO IS?

When I mention, "You All Come Back tonight at 6." You hear: "I don't know about that. or not a chance"

*You just heard the voice of Satan,
I know, it sounded like your voice,
but He is that good at lying.*

The bible refers to them as "Fiery Darts" (Eph 6:16)

Put Faithfulness to God ahead of all other things.

You are Saved, but you don't like coming to church, because you have been hurt by a supposed christian.

Recognize what they are. TARES!

Recognize who put them there. SATAN!

Recognize why Satan put them there!

So He could *discourage you & thus control you.*

CUT THE PUPPET Strings.

Don't let Satan use other people to detour you in your faithful devotion & service to God.

CUT THE PUPPET Strings.

Don't let Satan use you to be a hindrance to others.

Re-Connect with God in Personal Prayer & Bible Reading.

Put God first in your life. Tithe, give to missions & projects.

Don't let anything keep you out of church.
Share your faith, invite others to church, bible study.

If you haven't decided to Join this church, ask yourself, "What Bible Reason, do I have not to join it, & support it"

To go to heaven, It is not imperative you become a Baptist.

To serve God, it is not imperative you believe like me.

But before you write us off as a bunch of old school, right winged, Fundamentalists, let me show you in the bible why we believe, what we believe.

And you can show me in the bible why you believe what you believe.

The Right Bible, leads to the Right Doctrine.
The Right Doctrine Leads to having the Right Church.
The Right Church leads to fulfilling the Right Mission.

(2 Cor 2:2) ***Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his DEVICES.***

Know Who is Attacking you!

It is not God, but His arch-enemy.

Know Why he is attacking you!

Because it hurts God when he hurts you!

Because it renders you fruitless & helpless to others.

Because eventually, it makes you an instrument of his device to destroy other christians, like your children.

Has the Domain of the King of Heaven expanded to include your heart?

Has the Domain of the King of Heaven expanded to permeate all areas of your life?

Is there territory that the King has yet to claim title to in your life?

Do you have Lost Loved ones, outside the Kingdom?
Do you have Loved Ones who are resisting the King