

SEEING the KINGDOM

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Matthew 13

When JESUS came into GALILEE – Matt 4:17 – [17] *“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”*

The KINGDOM of GOD is never SPECIFICALLY DEFINED in the NT.

- 2 SAMUEL 7:12 – [12] *When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. [13] He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.*
 - [16] *And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”*
- Daniel says in Daniel 7:14 – [14] *And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.*
- Gabriel says to Mary in Luke 1:32 – [32] *He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.*

The New TESTAMENT teaches that the CORONATION of CHRIST as the KING occurred at PENTECOST.

- Quoting Psalm 110... A Messianic Coronation Psalm.
 - Acts 2:34 – [34] *For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, “The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, [35] until I make your enemies your footstool.’ [36] Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”*
 - At a CORONATION... the KING would give gifts.
 - Ephesians 4:7 – [7] *But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift*

How are we to UNDERSTAND the KINGDOM in this DAY? The PARABLES are JESUS’s EXPLANATION of what the KINGDOM is like

- Para-Bole – Something that is thrown alongside. It is a STORY that comes alongside the TEACHING.
- Matthew 13:10 – [10] *Then the disciples came and said to him, “Why do you speak to them in parables?” [11] And he answered them, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. [12] For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. [13] This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.*
 - To those who were already in the KINGDOM of GOD, they EXPLAIN.

- To those who are outside the KINGDOM of GOD, they PERPLEX.

MATTHEW RECORDS the PARABLES in this ORDER, because there is LOGICAL PROGRESSION of THOUGHT regarding the KINGDOM..

- [16] *But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear.*

1st Parable: Entry into the Kingdom

Matthew 13:3 – [3] *“A sower went out to sow. [4] And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. [5] Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, [6] but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. [7] Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. [8] Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. [9] He who has ears, let him hear.*

- “Verse 18 – [18] *“Hear then the parable of the sower: [19] When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path.*
 - “Evil one” – Satan comes and “snatches away”
 - Gk. “harpazo” – Snatch...
 - Same word is used in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 – to describe what happens to believers...
 - Same word is used in John 10:28 – [28] *No one will be able to “snatch” them out of my hand.*

[20] *As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy [21] yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.*

- The ROCKY SOIL – receives the word of the GOSPEL with JOY.
- But it is a SUPERFICIAL decision. No ROOT in the HEART.

There is ANOTHER thing that exposes FALSE FAITH... that is the WORLD. When the WORLD offers you its pleasures and goods. Matthew 13:22 – [22] *As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.*

- The word for “world” is not *kosmos* but *aion*. The AGE.
- “The Cares of the AGE and Deceitfulness of riches.
 - 1 Timothy 6:10 – [10] *For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.*
- Genuine FAITH sees Christ’s KINGDOM as infinitely more valuable than anything here.

JESUS says that there are those... who PERSEVERE in the FAITH ... These are the GENUINE CHRISTIANS.

- Matthew 13:23 – [23] *As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”*
 - 1) He Hears the Word.
 - 2) He Understands the Word.

- 3) They bring forth Fruit (to varying degrees).

2nd, 3rd, and 4th Parables: Nature of the Kingdom

Three Parables. WHAT is the KINGDOM LIKE in this AGE.

2nd Parable (Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43). Matthew 13:24 – [24] *He put another parable before them saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, [25] but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away.*

- Weeds – *zizania*; a troublesome weed which grows in grain fields... it is a poisonous weed.

[26] *So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also.*

- In this Kingdom Age, as you see the FRUIT of the KINGDOM, you see the WEEDS also.

[27] *And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’*

[28] *He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ [29] But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them*

- The PROBLEM would be this: The ROOTS of the WHEAT are intertwined with the ROOTS of the WEEDS.
- If you bring JUDGMENT now, it would be before all the ELECT REPENT and BELIEVE... the full number of CHRISTIANS.

[30] *Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.”*

[37] *He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. [38] The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, [39] and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. [40] Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. [41] The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, [42] and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. [43] Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.*

- The WEEDS CONTINUE against the END.

3rd Parable (Matthew 13:31, 32): [31] *He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. [32] It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”*

- The POINT of this PARABLE is that from very SMALL BEGINNINGS there are ENORMOUS RESULTS.

- A mustard Seed was the smallest seed that was used for regular agricultural purposes in Israel, yet it would grow into a LARGE BUSH or SMALL TREE about 10-12 feet HIGH.
- The GOSPEL will EXPAND beyond man's WILDEST expectations.
- The GOSPEL will go to the NATIONS.
 - Matthew 24:14 – [14] *And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.*

4th Parable (Matthew 13:33): [33] *he told them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened."*

- If the Parable of the Mustard Seed speaks to the Extent of the Kingdom's Growth; this parable speaks to the Intensity of the Kingdom's Growth.
- Three sats or Measures of flour – twenty to forty five liters. Could feed over 100 people.
- The KINGDOM transforms people from the inside out. It changes everything it touches.