

## The Parable of the Householder

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Matthew 13:51-53

We come to the eighth and final parable in Matthew 13 concerning “*the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven.*” These eight parables are related by pairs—Inverted outline of the parables:

- I. The **Reception** of the Word (the soil— vs. 3-9)
  - A. The **separation** of good and bad (tares— vs. 24-30)
    1. The **growth** of the kingdom (mustard seed— vs. 31-32)
      - a. The **valuable** purchase (hidden treasure— v. 44)
      - a. The **valuable** purchase (the pearl— vs. 45-46)
    1. The **growth** of corruption (leaven— v. 33)
  - A. The **separation** of good and bad (the net— vs. 47-50)
- I. The **Reception** of the Word (the scribe— vs. 51-52)

### I. The **INQUIRY** of Christ.

➡ After Jesus taught the parables about the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, He asked, “*Have ye understood all these things?*”

➡ For the last several weeks, we’ve been studying these same parables. Now Jesus asks you and me, “*Have you understood all these things?*”

- A. Do you understand the parable of **the sower**? Do you understand that not everyone who listens to the Word really hears it?
- B. Do you understand the parable of **the tares**? Do you understand that the children of the kingdom coexist along with the children of the devil. There are counterfeit believers and teachers.
- C. Do you understand the parable of the **mustard seed and the leaven**? Do you understand how the kingdom began very small but is growing at a supernatural rate and with the growth there is inner corruption taking place. Things will not get better, but become more and more perverse.
- D. Do you understand the parables of the **hidden treasure and the pearl of great price**? Do you see how valuable these things are and worth everything you could possess in this world?

- E. Do you understand the parable of **the dragnet**? Do you understand that there is coming a day when the wicked will be separated from the righteous and cast into the fires of hell?

## II. The INTERPRETATION of the parable.

- A. The COMPARISON of the scribe and the householder.
1. The "*scribe*," who is instructed, is like a "householder" who is a steward of those teachings.  
 ➡ **This parable is about stewardship!**
  2. The word "*householder*" means "master of a house"—The one responsible to supply the household with their needs.
- B. The COMBINATION of "*new and old*"—The truths concerning the kingdom of heaven are a combination of "*new and old*"—O.T. truths and N.T. truths.

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A full understanding of the Old Testament comes out of the truths presented in the New Testament. You cannot interpret the passover... tabernacle... prophecies in the O.T. without an understanding of the N.T. ➡ The shadows of Christ in the O.T. come to light in the N.T. ➡ Daniel in the O.T. requires the insights of Revelation in the N.T.

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- C. The CHARGE to the disciples—The application of the parable to the disciples was they were charged with the task of passing on to others the truths they were taught from these parables.

## III. The INSTRUCTION of the scribe (*"every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven..."*). THE ONE INSTRUCTED.

- A. The O.T. scribe was the "custodian/guardian" of the Scriptures.
- 1 They PRESERVED the Word. The word "scribe" means "to write" (scribble). They made copies of O.T. manuscripts.
  2. They PROCLAIMED the Word (Neh. 8:1-8). God's Word, was to be invested in people's lives to produce dividends.
- B. We are like "New Testament Scribes"—The "stewards" of God's Word today. We have been "*put in trust with the gospel*" (1 Thes.

2:4 cf. 1 Tim. 1:11). We are to make copies of God's Word and distribute it (like "Bearing Precious Seed"). We are to teach and preach God's Word as the scribes did in the O.T.

**IV. The IMPLICATION of responsibility** (*"...like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old."*)

- ➡ Since the disciples said they understood, Christ stresses their responsibility to pass on what they've learned (cf. Mt. 28:20).
  - ➡ Jesus said, *"Unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required"* (Luke 12:48).
- A. The TREASURE is the truths the disciples learned about the Kingdom. Basically, it is the knowledge of God's Word—God's Word likened unto gold—*"More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold"* (Ps. 19:10). *"The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver"* (Ps. 119:72).
  1. Knowledge of the Bible is truly a *"treasure."* Paul told the Corinthians they were ***"enriched"*** by their knowledge of spiritual truth (1 Cor. 1:5).
  2. It is sad to see how little people value spiritual truth today. They skip Sunday school and preaching services where the riches of God's Word are "brought forth" to pursue less important things in the world. They give up diamonds of eternal rewards for the dirt of temporal pleasures.
- B. The TRANSMISSION of spiritual truth is our responsibility.
  - ➡ **We are stewards of spiritual truths**—especially *"the mysteries"* (1 Cor. 4:1).
    1. A householder had "old" treasures he accumulated over the years. He would also be adding "new" treasures to his house. He was to bring forth *"new and old"* from a depository (called *"treasure"* in the text) to provide to those in the house.
    2. **We are householders.** Our body is the house of our soul and the Holy Spirit. Paul says, *"we have this TREASURE IN EARTHEN VESSELS"* (2 Cor 4:7).

- a) We have **old treasures**—Memories of getting saved... Blessings of God in the past... Answers to prayers... Spiritual truths we have learned as we grew in the Lord.
- ➡ Some people hear a sermon and say, "Oh, I've heard that before." That may be, but it is my job to bring forth "old" truths, and make "new" applications of those "old" truths to our lives today.
- b) We are to have **new treasures**. We should be GROWING spiritually and learning new insights into the truth of God's Word.

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I have been taught many truths over the past 45 years since I've been saved. Out of those "old" truths I should be bringing forth "new" insights God is teaching me.

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**SUMMATION:** God has given us all a "treasure chest" of past experiences... lessons we've learned in life... gold nuggets of spiritual truth. These still need to be brought forth and passed on to others.

However, do you have anything NEW to share with others. New manna! Fresh Oil? An up-to-date testimony? A recent answer to prayer?

*"Have ye understood all these things?"* THEN, bring them forth!

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