

1. The Parable of the Sower, Matt. 13:3-8
2. The Parable of the Mustard Seed: M.13:31-33
3. The Parables of the Hidden Treasure:
4. The Parable of the Pearl of Great

Price: . . .
Matt. 13:44-46

1. THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER Matt. 13:3-8. Jesus' explanation of it Matt. 13:18-23.

FOUR THINGS INVOLVED IN SOWING

1. THE SOWER (Matt. 13:37) is the Son of man.
2. THE SOWING. The field is the world (Matt. 13:38) or the heart of man.
3. The SEED, which is the Luke 8:11) word of God. His message to man.
4. THE SOIL the hearts of men into which the seed fall. Of these there are four types:
 1. THE UNTHINKING SOUL. The seed from the hand of the sower fell on it, rested there for a little while, and that was all. It was soon crushed under the foot of the traveler, or the birds came and carried it away.
 - (1) The gospel of Christ can take no effect upon the soul without thought.
 2. THE SENTIMENTALLY INTERESTED SOUL. With reference to him four things show up:
 - (1) Superficiality: The seed fell on stony places...had not much earth,
 - (2) Precocity: The seed that fell in this ground soon made their appearance, "Forth with the seed sprung up." Mere sentimental effects of the gospel are very rapid in their development.
 - (3) Joyousness: "Anon with joy receive it," Matt. 13:20. Really full of rapture for a time.
 - (4) Transitoriness: "And when the sun was up, they were scorched: because they had not root." Matt. 13:6
 3. THE WORLD-DIVIDED SOUL: "Some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprung up and choked them out." Matt. 13:7 *The spiritual spark is buried in a heap*
 - (1) They grew up together, but the the thorns overtopped the seed: shut out out from the necessary air and light. These thorns are described as: *of earthly cares and pleasures*
 1. The care of this world, Matt. 13:22; 1 Tim. 6:7-11.
 2. The deceitfulness of sin. Heb. 3:13
 4. THE TRUE HEARTED SOUL: "Other seed fell into good ground." Matt. 13:8. The law of possession may show up here. It could be:
 - (1) It (the gospel of Christ) fills the entire soul of some.
 - (2) Others are possessed at 60 percent (sixtyfold) of their capacity.
 - (3) Still others are possessed to only thirty percent (thirtyfold) of capacity. Matt. 13:8.

2. THE PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED Matthew 13:31, 32; Mark 4:30-32; Luke 13:18,19; "Then said he, unto what is the kingdom of God like? and where unto shall I resemble it?"

It is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and cast it into the garden; and it grew, and waxed a great tree; and the fowls of the air lodged in the branches of it." Luke 13:18,19

SOME LESSONS TAUGHT

1. The inherent self-developing power of the kingdom of heaven as a seed containing in itself the principle and power of expansion.
2. For the mustard seed to grow a tree so large is abnormal. So it may teach also:
 - (1) That the outward condition, as well as inward condition, of those who stand for God may become abnormal. Examples:
 1. A Diotrefes who loved to have the pre-eminence and to lord it over God's heritage. Members had to ask him? He was the "yes" and "no" man. (3 John 9, 10)
 2. A church intended to be a local, autonomous, locally governed congregation, teaching the truth, standing for the truth, yet departing from the truth and becoming, as in Constantine's day the official Church of the Empire. This meant what was claimed to be the kingdom of God, had ceased to be a lowly herb and had expanded into a large tree, so that the birds of the heavens could come and roost comfortably in her.
 3. On the abnormal side, just who are these birds?: Let Jesus tell us: "And the fowls of the air came and devoured the seed." Matt. 13:4. SO:
 - (1) The kingdom of heaven is made up of grown people actuated by the mind and humility of little children, such people can't become great (as the world measures greatness) in the kingdom and the "would-be" great cannot enter it in the first place.

THE PARABLE OF THE HIDDEN TREASURE Matthew 13:44

1. Valuables are entrusted to banks in these days, but in other days, and in the east especially they are buried in fields and gardens to save them from robbers and other accidents. Example:
 1. On the Chisom Trail just to the northeast from Brownwood, Texas Mr. Chisom supposedly being pursued by a band of robbers, or Indians, buried a large some of gold which he had received for several thousand head of cattle that he had driven up the trail to Kansas City.
 - (1) People through the years have literally torn up that part of the earth looking for the gold they think that Mr. Chisom buried there.
 2. MOST SEE AS THE VERY FIRST THING IN THIS PARABLE: the lesson of dishonesty on the part of this man. But that is not the lesson that Jesus intended. Some lesson we learn:
 - (1) The parable teaches first the real value, how really priceless the gospel of Christ is.
 - (2) That one who really discovers that value is willing to give up everything that he might possess himself of the privileges and hopes of the gospel. (Remember the law of possession as I mentioned in the parable of the sower?)

THE PARABLE OF THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE Matthew 13:45, 46

1. Some things this parable does not teach:
 1. It does not teach that the kingdom of heaven is like a Pearl.
 2. It does not teach that the church is like a Pearl.
2. Some things this parable does teach:
 1. It teaches that the kingdom of heaven is like a pearl. The kingdom is described (Matt.13:46) as a pearl of great price.
 2. It teaches that man is looking for this "pearl of great price." John 7:17, "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself."
 3. The man finds the "pearl of great price" and gives up all that he has in order to possess it.
 4. Both men were searching for something better than that which they already had.

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