

The End Times
The Kingdom Parables
Matt 13.1-11; cf. vs 11

[The Kingdom Parables have had volumes written on them, most of which take a simplistic approach to the parables. However, a diligent study of the Kingdom parables reveals the Church and its struggles throughout the Church Age. Thus the Kingdom Parables were prophetically given by our Lord Jesus Christ to reveal those things born again Christians would face during this Church Age.]

[The Church Age, or the Dispensation of Grace, consists of a period of time that runs from Calvary all the way up to the Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church. Therefore, we live, minister, and serve our Lord Jesus Christ is what must be described as the end of this Church Age.]

[Now we looked at the Church Age through a broad survey last week. We also considered what The Word of God taught about this Church Age as we looked and the seven Churches of the Revelation last Sunday Evening. As we looked at those seven Churches we discovered,]

Matt 7.12

- **[A failing love in the Church]**
- **[A Greedy Covetousness in the Church – Like Balaam, who should God’s people for profit. Filthy lucre is the Church.]**
- **[An idolatrous False teaching in the Church – Like Jezebel who taught and forced God’s people to worship false god’s]**
- **[A Severe Persecution in the Church – Christians giving up their lives for the gospel.]**
- **[The Abandonment of the Word of God in the Church – Which we see in our day through the vehicle of the many modern translations of the Bible.]**
- **[The Democratic Takeover of the Church – With our Lord on the outside knocking to get into the Church (Rev 3.20)]**
- **[The Faithful Overcomers in every Church – There was a faithful remnant in every Church who overcame and served our Lord Faithfully to the end of their lives.]**

[So, just what is our Lord trying to teach us through the revelation of the Seven Churches and the Kingdom Parables. **Our Lord sums up his teaching when He said,**]

*[Matthew 7:12-15 ¹² Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets. ¹³ Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, **and many there be which go in thereat:** ¹⁴ Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, **and few there be that find it.** ¹⁵ **Beware of false prophets,** which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.]*

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[Our Lord reveals to us that the Church, in this world, will grow to be exceeding large but truly born again Christians will be a remnant in the midst of the Church.]

[Notice again,]

*[Matthew 7:14 . . . **and few there be that find it.**]*

[We see this revelation throughout Scripture and it is reiterated in our Lord's teachings about this Church Age. The true Church of our Lord Jesus Christ is a **Remnant**. If you are a part of this remnant, then you will be an **Overcomer** in the Church that claims to belong to God in this world.]

[Now, let us look and see how the Kingdom Parables support this teaching of our Lord.]

1. The Parable of the Sower and the Seed (Matt 13.1-9; 18-23) [– In this parable we see the Word of God sown on the field of the world with different results. We see,]

- [The Devil steal the Word away from the hard soil or the hard heart (vs 19)]
- [Tribulation and Persecution offend or scorch the shallow hearted (vs 20-12)]
- [The Cares of this World choke out the encumbered heart, thorns (vs 22)]
- [The various degrees of fruitfulness in the heeding heart (vs 23)]

[All of these results are in response to the Word of God, the seed is the Word of God. Folks **the Word of God is of supreme importance in the Kingdom of Heaven** or the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ.]

[The presiding fact of this Parable is that **the Word of God WILL be sown** and people will respond differently to the Word of God.]

[**The Kingdom of Heaven** in these parables refers to all that claim to belong to God in this world. The Kingdom of Heaven refers to all that claim to be Christians in this world.]

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1. The Parable of the Sower and the Seed
- 2.

2. **The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares (Matt 13.24-30; 36-44)** [– This parable teaches that in the midst of the Church there will be wheat and tares; there will be born again Christians and there will be lost professing Christians. Notice that,]

- [The wheat and tares are in the same field, **the same Church congregation**. This congregation is the universal Church or professing Christendom throughout the world (vs 37-38).]
- [The wheat and the tares look identical; it is very hard to tell them apart until they actually bear their fruit (vs 26). Wheat give nourishment Tares are poison.]
- [The workers are told **not to** try and separate the wheat and tares before the harvest, the end of the Church Age. It is not a Christians job to try and determine who the wheat or tares are (vs 28-30).]
- [The Angels of God will separate the true from the false at the end of the World (vs 39-40)]

[From this teaching we learn that the Christian Church in this world throughout this Church Age has had, and continues to have, true Christians (wheat) and false Christians (tares) that bear different fruits.]

[It should not surprise us when men and women who claim to be Christians look like and live like the world and even deny God and the Word of God. Not everyone who professes to be a Christian is Born Again.]

3. The Parable of the Ten Virgins (Matt 25.1-13) [– This parable is very similar to the Parable of the Wheat and Tares. The Ten Virgins shows us ten virgins,]

- [All waiting in the same room, with the same lamps, waiting for the same bridegroom (vs 1-5). These are a picture of a congregation all in the same Church, with the same Word of God (Lamp Psalm 119.105), waiting for the same Lord to come.]
- [They were all called to the marriage (vs 6)]
- [They all trimmed their lamps (vs 7)]
- [Only the wise had oil (the Holy Spirit) in their lamps (vs 8-9)]
- [Only the truly saved, having oil, could enter the marriage (vs 10-13)]

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1. **The Parable of the Sower and the Seed**
2. **The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares.**

[This Parable teaches us that the Church will consist of the truly redeemed, the born again Christian; and the religious, lost, professing Christian who is not really saved. Only the born again will enter the marriage supper of our Lord.]

[What is the heart of this parable? It is that you must be sure that you are truly born again. Religion cannot get you to heaven.]

4. The Parable of the Mustard Seed (Matt 13.31-32) [– This parable speaks to us of **the mutation of the Church**. The Church of our Lord Jesus Christ will become something that God never intended for it to become. It will become the Laodicean Church of Revelation chapter three where **Christ is outside of the Church** trying to get in the door (Rev 3.20). This Church was the Church of the Laodiceans, it is the Church of the people, it is a democratic Church where the people rule the Church and not the Lord Jesus Christ. Notice,]

- [The Mustard Seed is a herb but becomes a tree (vs 32) – A mustard plant will never, ever become a tree, it is a herb. For it to become a tree is an unnatural mutation.]

5. The Parable of the Leaven (Matt 13.33; cf. 1 Cor 5.6; Gal 5.9) [– Leaven is always a picture or symbol of evil in the Word of God. For leaven to be sown is the Church is for sin and evil to be sown into the Church and once it is kneaded into the lump the whole lump is leavened or evil.]

[1 Corinthians 5:6 Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?]

[Galatians 5:9 A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.]

[Hence, our Lord warned us, to prepare us, that the Church would become a manmade religion. We must understand this tendency and respond accordingly, striving to keep our Lord in and leading His Church.]

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3. The Parable of the Ten Virgins
4. The Parable of the Mustard Seed
5. The Parable of the Leaven

6. The Parable of the Hid Treasure (Matt 13.44) [–

This Parable teaches us that the true Church of our Lord Jesus Christ will be like a treasure hid in a field. There will be truly born again Christians in this field of the world, they are a remnant, who cleave to the Word of God, and overcome this world's false religious systems. They are worth finding and buying.]

7. The Parable of the Pearl Of Great Price (Matt 13.45-46; cf. 1 Cor 6.20) [–

This parable teaches us that these truly born again Christians are the ones our Lord came and died for; they are the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ. How do we know their great value to our Lord?]

*[1 Corinthians 6:20 **For ye are bought with a price:** therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.]*

[Matthew 13:46 Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.]

[Our Lord died to purchase us, His Church, and we are His, we belong to our Lord Jesus Christ.]

8. The Parable of the Drag Net (Matt 13.47-50) [– This parable teaches us that there is coming a day when judgment will come. The wicked, the unsaved, even if they have call themselves Christian will be cast in the Lake of Fire. The saved will be redeemed and will dwell with Christ in Heaven and eternal bliss and glory. **You had better be ready. Are you Religious or are you Redeemed?]**

[The Sum Of The Church Age]

- [There will be a **GREAT RELIGIOUS** system that calls itself by the name **CHRISTIAN**. Every Christian Church is a part of this system. All Christian Churches are Religious but not all Christian Churches are composed of the Redeemed, and not everyone in them is Redeemed.]
- [There will be many **Born Again Christians** in the midst of this system, but they will be a **remnant, they will be few.**]
- [There will be multitudes more Professing Christians in the midst of this system **who are not saved at all**. They are religious, and look just like the saved, **but they are NOT SAVED**, they are tares and not wheat. Religion saves no one, only faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work on Calvary's Cross can save any person.]
- [Our Lord Jesus Christ will come at a time not expected and judgment will follow. **ARE YOU READY?**]
- [Christians must overcome over the false Christianity that would deceive them and led them away from the sure Word of God.]

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[By the way the fact that our Lord Jesus Christ taught us all that He did about the Church age, through the Seven Churches of The Revelation and the Kingdom Parables ought to give us,]

- [The Confidence in the accuracy and faithfulness of the Word of God as given by our Lord.]
- [The Assurance that even when things look like our Lord is out of control, by the corruption and mutation of His Church, Our Lord is still very much in control and warned us about all of these worldly things before any of them happened.]
- [The Faith to be an Overcomer in the midst of His Church. Our Lord does not ask us to flee His Church because of its corruption, but to stay in this Church and be an Overcomer in it.]

[What does it take to be saved?]

[Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.]

[Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.]

[Your Church Membership and attendance cannot save you!]

[Only faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work can save you.]

CrossRoads Baptist Church, Nov 16, 2014 Evening

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