

**Teen Bible Study Notes:** Friday, November 16, 2018

**Presented by:** Sheldon Monson

**The Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ – Lecture #15**

**Book and Chapter: Matthew – Chapter 13 (verses 34 – all)**

## MATTHEW 13

IMPORTANT NOTE: Insert the sixth parable here – *The Seed Growing of Itself* – from Mark’s gospel account.

### *The Seed Growing of Itself [KJV] or The Parable of the Growing Seed [NKJV]*

**Mark 4:26-29: V26** And He said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground.

**V27** And should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how.

**V28** For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head.

**V29** But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

We do not understand the precise mechanism by which the Word of God produces fruit in human lives. But we certainly can plainly see that it *does!*

God’s ministers are very much like those who plant seed and the care for it while it comes to fruition. Paul made such an analogy when he referred to himself and Apollos: **V6** “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. **V7** So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase” (**I Corinthians 3:6-7**).

God causes each member of the Church to grow in grace, in knowledge and in character. This growth is brought about by God’s Holy Spirit working in each individual life – not by the minister (husbandman). It is also *God* who adds to the Church as a whole (compare **John 6:44** and **Acts 2:47**). *He* increases it quantitatively as well as qualitatively.

**John 6:44** “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.”

**Acts 2:47** “...And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

Those who are called in this age are the “firstfruits” of that great harvest of lives (**James 1:18**).

**James 1:18** “Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.”

And it is God who will reap His own harvest in the end of this age of growth.

### *Prophecy and the Parables*

**V34** All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them,

Jesus had addressed the first six parables in this series directly to the people who were standing on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. But because of their spiritual blindness He did not explain the meaning to them (**Matthew 13:34**). The people – at the time – never really realized what they had been told! Actually Christ had given them precious information that had been kept secret since the world was formed – but it was *hidden* in the parables (**Matthew 13:35**).

**V35** That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: *‘I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world.’*

*The prophet* spoken of is Asaph, a Levite and the leader of the singers in ancient Israel. He had written many centuries earlier: “I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old” (**Psalms 78:2**). So Jesus was actually fulfilling prophecy when He spoke these parables.

### *The Parable of the Tares Explained*

**V36** Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field.”

Now the setting had changed. Jesus was no longer sitting in the boat on the Sea of Galilee. He was in a house (His own or perhaps Peter’s house). The disciples asked for an explanation of the parable of the tares (**Matthew 13:36**). Jesus explained not only that parable but all the parables He had given to the people (**Mark 4:34**).

**Mark 4:34** “But without a parable he did not speak to them. And when they were alone, He explained all things to His disciples.”

Following the explanation of the parables given to the people, Jesus then added four more parables which pertained directly to the work of the future apostles. (We will get to them shortly – beginning in **Matthew 13:44**.)

Let’s first continue with the explanation of – *The Parable of the Tares*

**V37** He answered and said to them: “He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.

**V38** The field is the world, the good seeds [true Christians] are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked *one [Satan]*.

**V39** The enemy who sowed them is the devil [**II Corinthians 4:4** "...the god of this age..."], the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels.

**V40** Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age [Greek – *aionos* – meaning "age"].

**V41** The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness,

**V42** And will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

**V43** Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

The second parable is also taken from a description of rural life in the province of Galilee. Any farmer of the day would have known about tares (darnel). They were weeds that grew with the wheat and looked much like it as long as the wheat remained in the blade stage. When they grew to maturity, however, they were readily distinguishable.

This is a simple illustration pointing out that both the converted and unconverted have to coexist until the time of the great harvest of lives at Christ's return. During that time Jesus Christ will make a separation between those who are His and those who are not.

The most detailed account of this parable is found here in the book of Matthew. Each element has vital meaning.

This parable graphically shows the fate of those who insist on following the devil when *they know better!* Those who are incorrigibly wicked will be thrown into a lake of fire and be burned into ashes (**Malachi 4:3**).

**Malachi 4:3** "You shall trample the wicked, for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day that I do this," says the LORD of hosts."

John spoke of this in the book of Revelation: **Revelation 20:14-15: V14** "Then Death and Hades [the grave] were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

**V15** And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire."

In order to die twice, one must first *live* twice. This means a *resurrection* must occur. This is not immortal *life* as a "soul" in an ever-burning hellfire – it is complete extinction and oblivion *forever!* And this is *doctrine!*

### Summary of the first six parables

This completes the first six parables, which were given *to the people* without explanation. Later they were *all* explained to the disciples.

**Mark 4:34** “But without a parable He did not speak to them. And when they were alone, He explained all things to His disciples.”

The predominant theme of these particular parables is plainly the *Kingdom of God*.

By these parables Jesus showed that most people who are called pass through several stages. Those who endure to the end – continuing to bear good fruit of God’s Spirit – will ultimately achieve salvation and glory for all eternity.

The rest will be cast into a lake of fire, which represents their second death – and final – death. But the righteous and the sinner will have to live side by side in this society like the grain and the weeds – that is, until the final harvest of souls at the end of the world [age]. Then Christ’s angelic servants will make a separation.

Also, it is God who gives the growth in His Church – both numerically and spiritually. And the example of the lamp under the bushel teaches us that the Church of God *must* preach the Gospel of the Kingdom as a beacon of light shining in a world of darkness.

In addition, we have learned what God is starting so small in us *now* will eventually fill the entire earth! The Kingdom will grow and flourish to become millions of times its starting size.

What profound truths these simple parables contain! What glory is revealed in them!

These last four parables in this first set were not given to the people in general. These parables were given as lessons to the disciples only. The meaning was not hidden – there was no need. In fact, the meaning of each of these four last parables is self-explanatory.

Jesus continued with the same theme – that of the Kingdom of God – but He spoke of things which had to do with the ministry of the apostles. The disciples were still *not converted* at this point. They did not yet have God’s Holy Spirit (**John 14:15-17**).

**John 14:15-17: V15** “If you love Me, keep My commandments.

**V16** And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever –

**V17** The Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”

These four parables were designed to show the disciples the incredible value and priceless nature of their apostolic calling. They were intended to illustrate the true worth of the knowledge of the Kingdom of God. And the last of these parables indicated how they were to preach and teach others about the Kingdom of God.

Let’s examine them one at a time:

- (7) The Hidden Treasure (Matthew 13:44).
- (8) The Merchant Seeking Pearls – The Pearl of Great Price – (Matthew 13:45-46).
- (9) The Net Cast Into the Sea – The Dragnet – (Matthew 13:57-50).
- (10) The Householder and His Treasure (Matthew 13:52).

### ***The Parable of the Hidden Treasure***

**V44** Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Here we see a person who stumbles unexpectedly upon a valuable treasure in a field through which he is passing. He is not seeking it. He just happens upon it. But in so doing he immediately recognizes its tremendous value and takes steps to acquire the field – even at the cost of selling all his earthly possessions.

We may learn *two lessons* from this brief parable. 1) Not everyone who is called is seeking the truth of God. Most are just going about their lives oblivious to the need to search for life’s meaning. Their whole goal in life is self-perpetuation and perhaps material success. Then, quite unexpectedly, God intervenes in their lives and calls them (**John 6:44**). 2) The second lesson – A wise person will immediately recognize the value and meaning of that high calling. He will take steps to see that from that time forth nothing jeopardizes his efforts to pursue eternal life. He will abandon his material goals and “seek first the kingdom of God” (**Matthew 6:33**).

He will not care what the cost is – although he should soberly count the cost before he sets about becoming a real Christian.

**Luke 14:28, 33: V28** “For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has *enough* to finish it – ”

**V33** “So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.”

Jesus was pointing the disciples to the importance of their calling as apostles. But the principle applies to all who are called of God to His Kingdom. Are you willing to give up everything to follow Christ?

### ***The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price***

**V45** Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls,

**V46** Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Notice the difference between this and the previous parable. The merchant was *seeking* “goodly pearls.” Since the pearl of great price represents the Kingdom, we must conclude that here is a person searching for spiritual truth.

There are many such people in the world. Not everyone stumbles upon the truth; some are actually seeking knowledge of God and His Kingdom.

Consider the moving example of a man named Simeon:

### *Simeon Sees God’s Salvation*

**Luke 2:25-30: V25** “And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

**V26** And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.

**V27** So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law.

**V28** He took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said:

**V29** ‘Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word;

**V30** For my eyes have seen Your salvation.”

Simeon had *yearned* for God’s Kingdom and His Christ! And God rewarded him by allowing him to see the Messiah before his death – and indeed to prophesy concerning Him!

God has not yet given us the privilege of seeing Christ as did Simeon. But we have been offered that pearl of great price – we know of the Kingdom of God and how to achieve salvation.

If we are patient and endure to the very end – if we have really been willing to forsake everything and have given God’s Kingdom top priority in our lives – we too will someday gaze upon the face of the living Christ, this time in all its brilliance and glory as the returning Creator God! (**I John 3:2**).

Do we recognize the value of what we have within our grasp?

### *The Parable of the Dragnet*

**V47** Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind,

**V48** Which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away.

**V49** So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just,

**V50** And cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”

**V51** Jesus said to them, “Have you understood all these things?” They said to Him, “Yes, Lord.”

As Peter and the others went out as “fishers of men,” there was no guarantee that every person they caught would be of top spiritual quality. The gospel message attracts all kinds of people. Not everyone is truly converted and headed for the Kingdom. Simon Magus, in Acts the eighth chapter, is a good example of a person who was attracted by the power of the apostles (he was even baptized), but his motives were insincere.

There are those who fellowship with true brethren of the body of Christ. They eat with them, attend services with them, and pay lip service to righteousness – but they are not children of the Kingdom!

Jude spoke of such as “spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving *only* themselves...” (**Jude 12**).

Such people do not truly have the fear and respect of God which a genuinely converted person must have. They appear as Christians outwardly, but inwardly they are hypocrites and spiritually unclean.

Peter also warned of such individuals. He wrote: “But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, *and* bring on themselves swift destruction” (**II Peter 2:1**).

These are not outsiders – they are insiders among the people of the Church of God. They are caught in the “net” along with those who are headed for the Kingdom of God. But at the return of Christ, such people will be separated (**Matthew 25:31-33**).

**Matthew 25:31-33: V31** “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.

**V32** All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats.

**V33** And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.”

Upon completion of this parable Jesus asked them: “Have you understood all these things?” (**Matthew 13:51**). They answered in the affirmative – “Yes, Lord.”

He then gave them one last parable which could only apply to the ministry of Christ.

### *The Parable of the Householder and His Treasure*

**V52** Then He said to them, “Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure *things* new and old.”

Here was an obvious reference to the disciples, who had been “instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven” by the parables!

They had learned some entirely new things – as Jesus had said in **Matthew 13:35** “...*I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world.*”

But they also would preach some “old” things – things from the Old Testament prophets and writers, as well as the new truths which Christ had personally given to them.

The Church of God is “...built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*” (**Ephesians 2:20**).

The Jewish people to whom the apostles preached were familiar with many of the Old Testament teachings used by the apostles in the preaching of the gospel. In addition, they heard many new truths which were given directly to the disciples by Christ.

The complete message of the New Testament combines the words and lessons of the Old Testament with the revelation of Jesus Christ. Therefore some things are new and some are old. This is amply demonstrated by the fact that the New Testament writers included some 850 references to the Old Testament in their writings – 280 of which are direct quotes!

This completes the first set of Galilean parables (**Matthew 13:53**). In the “studies” to come – we will examine the second set of parables, which deal with a somewhat different theme and were given under an entirely different set of circumstances.

### *Jesus Rejected at Nazareth*

**V53** Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished these parables, that He departed from there.

**V54** When He had come to His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, “Where did this *Man* get this wisdom and *these* mighty works?”

**V55** Is this not the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas?

**V56** And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this *Man* get all these things?”

**V57** So they were offended at Him. But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house.”

**V58** Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

## Living Faith

**Mark 6:5-6: V5** “Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed *them*.

**V6** And He marveled because of their unbelief. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching.”

Faith, or belief, in order to be effectual, must have a sure foundation if it is to stand. If we have real, living, effective faith, we must learn to put our faith in God, not in men!

We are told: “Put not your trust in princes, nor in a son of man, in whom *there is* no help”  
(**Psalm 146:3**).

Even when men are well intentioned, you never really know whether they will be able to keep their promises. And many people are not well intentioned.

But God will never break His Word. He is totally reliable. When He makes a promise, you can depend on it. Men are limited in knowledge and understanding, and also in their ability to keep their word. But God is always 100 percent faithful (**I Corinthians 1:9; I Corinthians 10:13; I Peter 4:19**).

It is utterly impossible for God to lie (**Hebrews 6:18**). Once He makes a promise, He will stand by it (**Hebrews 10:23**). Whatever God promises – whatever His will is – He will bring it to pass!

There are three vital ingredients necessary in healing: 1) faith, 2) obedience, and 3) patience. When a person prays for healing, he must believe, obey God and then, because God has not promised when He will heal, he must patiently wait for God’s intervention.

**James 1:2-3: V2** “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,  
**V3** Knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.”

Faith is a gift. It is one of the fruits of the Spirit (**Galatians 5:22-23**). If we lack faith we should ask God for more of it.

**James 1:6-7: V6** “But let him ask in faith with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

**V7** For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord:

**V8** *He is* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

**Mark 9:23-24: V23** Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things *are* possible to him who believes.”

**V24** Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”