

**The Parables of Jesus #11**  
**The Parable of the Householder**  
**(Mt. 13:51-52)**  
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**INTRODUCTION**

**A. In our series on the parables of Jesus, we have looked at several that concern traits or qualities of the kingdom of heaven**

1. It's like a tiny mustard seed that grows into a large plant
2. It's like a small but of leaven that leavens the entire lump of dough
3. It's like a man who sows good seed in his field and an enemy comes and sows tares in the same field
4. It's like a treasure hidden in a field and when found, the finder sells all he has to buy the field
5. It's like a merchant seeking good pearls, and finding one of great price, sold all he had to buy it
6. It's like a net cast into the sea, gathering every kind of fish, and after drawn to shore, the bad fish were separated and thrown away

**B. Now to the last of the Matthew 13 series of parable on the kingdom**

1. But there is something different about this one
2. It is not a parable describing the kingdom of heaven
3. This parable is one that describes the person learning about the kingdom

**C. Matt 13:51-52**

1. Jesus said to them, ""Have you understood all these things?" They said to Him, ""Yes, Lord." 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." (NKJ)
2. Today, we must think again about those who seek the kingdom
  - a. is there something they must know?
  - b. is there something for which they must be responsible?
  - c. is there something that would affect their ability to experience the kingdom of heaven?

## **I. HAVE YOU UNDERSTOOD?**

### **A. There is a connection to an earlier parable in this same chapter**

#### 1. Matt 13:19

When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. (NKJ)

#### 2. Understanding and accepting God's word is the key to the kingdom

- a. those who did not understand --- Satan snatched the word away
- b. those who received the word joyfully, but who did not have any depth -- like stony ground in which the word dies quickly
- c. those who get all caught up in the things of the world -- like thorny ground in which the word of God is choked out

#### 3. Matt 13:23

But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty." (NKJ)

#### 4. Jesus based the prospect of bearing fruit on understanding God's word

- a. it was then that he told these short stories about the kingdom
- b. how were people to enter and serve in a kingdom they didn't understand?
- c. little wonder that Jesus asked them, "Do you understand?"

### **B. This is a theme that never fades from the concern of Scripture**

#### 1. Acts 17:11-12

These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men. (NKJ)

#### 2. 2 Tim 2:15-16

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. (NKJ)

#### 3. 2 Pet 2:1-3

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. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber. (NKJ)

## II. COMPARISON TO SCRIBES

### A. Jesus makes an interesting comparison

1. He asks if they understood -- they answered, "Yes."
2. His response -- "Therefore, every Scribe..."
  - a. scribes were the professional students of the law
  - b. they underwent rigorous academic training
  - c. they were the experts, the lawyers who believed they understood the Law of Moses
  - d. they believed they were privy to secrets of interpretation that were not available to the common man
  - e. the scribe, then, was considered to be a man who, above all others, understood the word of God
3. But Jesus' question here was not just to scribes, but to all who heard his teachings regarding the kingdom of heaven
  - a. "Do you understand?"
  - b. "Yes," was their answer
  - c. therefore it put them in a class they had perhaps never considered for themselves -- a scribe

### B. Ezra was a scribe that demonstrated the qualities for which Jesus seemed to be looking

1. Ezra 7:10  
For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel. (NKJ)
2. Neh 8:5-8  
And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. Then all the people answered, ""Amen, Amen!" while lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law; and the people stood in their place. So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading. (NKJ)

### C. Ezra demonstrated three essential qualities for a scribe

1. He prepared his own heart as a seeker
  - a. the parable of the sower proves that it is the heart that God is after
  - b. only the good heart produces the desired fruit
  - c. all the parables of the kingdom concern the values, intentions and actions of a man's heart

2. He prepared his heart for himself to do what he learned
  - a. this is the essence of complete faith -- a coupling of what a man believes to be true and what he's willing to do about it
  - b. the parables of the kingdom of heaven prove that it is we who must seek and then act upon what we learn
  - c. good hearted people are those whose first concern is that they obey God's will first
3. He then taught others
  - a. in Jesus' mind, the first two must be true before a scribe could successfully help anyone else to understand
  - b. before anything can be true about a disciple, the first thing that must be true is -- do you understand?

**D. Did Jesus purposely call them scribes?**

1. I think the answer is yes
2. If they understood what he was telling them, they certainly belonged to the group who claimed to understand

### **III. THE STORY OF THE HOUSEHOLDER**

**A. Remember, it is important to know what is being described**

1. Here is it the man who is instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven
2. It is not the kingdom being described here

**B. What is that man like?**

1. He is like a householder
  - a. lit. the head of the house; or head of the family
  - b. in our terms, perhaps, a homeowner; or man of the house
2. The householder has a treasure
  - a. perhaps here the place where treasures or valuables were kept
  - b. a container of safekeeping for those things considered valuable
3. There is something interesting about his valuables
  - a. there are some old things there
  - b. there are some new things there

**C. What did Jesus mean?**

1. Many scholars think this is a reference to the new things Christ brought
  - a. a true scribe would appreciate the things of the Old Law
  - b. he would also understand Jesus was the fulfillment

2. A scribe who truly understood would accept Jesus
  - a. perhaps this was why Jesus elevated his hearers to the level of scribe
  - b. if they understood, then they were certainly understanding the things of the kingdom of heaven
  - c. the true treasure chest would find both the old and the new belonging in the same place

**D. This is why we need to see the value today of the Old Testament**

1. There is much there that explains God's ways
2. There we see unfolding the plan of salvation
3. There we find the promises and prophecies of the coming Messiah
4. Gal 3:24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. (NKJ)
5. 2 Tim 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (NKJ)

**CONCLUSION**

**A. Do you understand the word of God?**

1. It is essential to experiencing the kingdom of heaven
2. It is the key to everything, and it can be done

**B. Piece by piece, you should be seeing how the entire word of God fits together**

1. How the Old Testament brings us to Christ
2. How Christ fulfills the Old Law
3. What it means for your life

**C. If you do understand, will you become a Christian?**

**D. If you are already a Christian, will you keep on learning and growing?**

**E. Invitation**