

## PARABLE OF THE POSTAGE STAMP

### Int.

1. Aim: To show how Christians have many things in common with the postage stamp
2. Mt. 13:34 "All these things spoke Jesus unto the multitudes in parables; and without a parable spoke he not unto them."
  - a. Heavenly things cannot be taught to man without comparing them to earthly things
  - b. If God had spoke to us in language familiar to heaven we could not have understood but very little of it.
  - c. It's a great privilege to be taught by the parables of the Lord
3. Jesus used many different kinds of parables - 40 parables
  - a. The sower and the seed, wheat and tares, mustard seed
  - b. Hidden treasure, pearl of great price
  - c. Good Samaritan, lost sheep prodigal son, talents
4. This is the parable of the Postage Stamp
  - a. Modern postal system uses stamps as evidence that a fee has been paid for the service of delivery
  - b. Used heralds in olden times to deliver messages from one to another
5. There are many things about our common postage stamp that is very much like living the Christian life!

**Discussion****I. WORK AT ANY PLACE**

## A. Postage stamp

1. Not restricted to certain hours or certain places
2. It doesn't loaf part of the time
3. It stays on the job all the time
4. The work of a stamp is not just restricted to the post office or county in which it was purchased

## B. Christians are to work in the same way! Rev. 2:10

1. No loafing in living Christian life
  - a. Rev. 3:1 "...I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead." - Sardis
  - b. Dead — no work
  - c. Can't loaf in Christian living
2. We must be willing to always be a Christian
  - a. Not just on Sunday
  - b. Not just a few days or a year
  - c. If we are not a Christian all the time then we are not a Christian anytime.
  - d. 1 Cor. 15:58
3. We must be a Christian everywhere we go, not just in home town or community
  - a. Lydia served God about 300 miles away from her home - Phillipi - Thyatira
  - b. Many will not be faithful away from home
  - c. If YOU are not a Christian everywhere you go, then you are not a Christian anywhere !

## **II. MAKES LITTLE NOISE IN WORKING**

### A. Postage stamp works quietly

1. Licked and put in place
2. No bragging about how far he had traveled with his message, or how much money he carried, or what kind of gossip he was relaying to another.

### B. Christians are to do their work quietly — I Pet. 5:6 “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:”

1. We must not want a big fuss or show or reward now
2. Many will not work unless they have a big reward and recognition
3. I Thes. 4:11 — love of personal glory brings God’s disapproval
4. I Tim. 2:2 — pray for leaders that we may be able to live a quiet & peaceable Godly life
5. I Pet 3:4 “But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.” calm, tranquil, at peace - a great price in the sight of God
6. James 4:10 HUMILITY
7. Mt. 6:1-23 — doing things to be seen of men and rewarded by them

## **III. RAGGED EDGES DOES NOT STOP THEM**

### A. Postage stamp

1. Edges are not smooth and straight
2. Sometimes we tear them unevenly, or tear off corner
3. Occasionally they get ripped or torn in two pieces, yet They will still do work

B. Christian's do not give up when Things go bad

1. II Cor. 11:23—33 = Paul's life had ragged edges all around and yet he never gave up the Christian life
2. Phil. 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ which strengthen me." - this should be our attitude and motto
3. Job. 1:21 "...the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."
4. A Christian does not let the troubles of life stop him.
5. Rom. 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good to them that Love God, to them who are called according to his purpose."

#### **IV. GETTING A BLACK EYE DOES NOT STOP THEM**

A. Postage Stamp

1. Postmarked — ink smeared all over it
2. Can't tell much about the details after the postmark
3. Doesn't stop it from working,
4. It doesn't try to get even with those who blackened it

B. Christians must work through think & thin

1. Discouragement — evil spoken of
  - a. Mt. 5:10—12
  - b. Heb. 12:6 "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth everyone whom he receiveth."
2. II Tim. 3:12 "yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

3. When a Christian does good and is spoken of in an evil way, they should not let it make them quit doing good.— I Cor. 10:30
4. Christians do not retaliate
  - a. Rm. 12:19 "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine: [will repay saith the Lord.]"
  - b. Rm. 12:21 "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

## V. UNUSUAL STAMPS BECOME VALUABLE

### A. Stamps

1. Collectors get rare stamps and they become valuable
2. Unusual Characteristics — 1st air-mail the place was upside down

### B. Christians

1. Paul was very valuable because he was an unusually dedicated Christian
2. Tit. 2:14 — **PECULIAR** = beyond usual, special
3. Are you unusual
4. II Tim. 4:8 — crown of righteousness — worth more than anything in world

## Conclusion

1. The Christian life can be compared to the ordinary postage stamp.
  - (1) A stamp works in any place at any time without any boasting.
  - (2) Even Though it has rough edges and is sometimes torn it never gives up.
  - (3) Even when smeared with black ink the stamp continues to do its work.
  - (4) Some ordinary stamps become very valuable because of some unusual Characteristic and are sold for great sums of money.

2. A Christian must be faithful at any place at any time and live the Christian life, with humility and simplicity.

(1) Even though things go bad and people persecute them for doing good a Christian will remain faithful in doing good.

(2) Any ordinary person who remains a faithful Christian until his death will be of great value to God.

(3) He has paid a great price for us, in that he allowed his son to be crucified for us, so he could have a permanent home with him in the mansion of heaven.

3. Can your life be compared to a postage stamp?

4. Sometimes a stamp comes unglued from the envelope. It has to be glued back to its spot.

Sometimes we fall away and need to be restored to our first love.