

PARABLE OF THE HOUSEHOLDER

Int.

1. Aim: To explain this parable and then make applications to us.
2. Mt 13:51-52 "Jesus saith unto them, Have ye understood all these things? They say unto him, Yea, Lord. 52 Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe [which is] instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man [that is] an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure [things] new and old."
3. Following His explanation of "The Parable Of The Dragnet" (Mt 13: 47-50), we find Jesus asking His disciples: "Have you understood all these things?" Mt 13:51
 - a. When God speaks to man, He wants man to hear and understand, and He speaks in man's language so that man may understand.
 - b. He had spoken in parables, and unless they are understood they mean but little.
 - c. They said they understood, and they thought they did, but they did not understand the full meaning of his teachings.
4. This question likely relates not just to the preceding parable, but to all of those recorded in this chapter:
 - a. The Parable Of The Sower - Mt 13:3-9,18-23 - the word of God is sown as seed among the different hearers of men
 - b. The Parable Of The Wheat And The Tares - Mt 13:24-30,36-43 - shows the struggle between good and evil to be permanent to the final separation.
 - c. The Parable Of The Mustard Seed - Mt 13:31-32 - shows the small beginning, but final triumph of the kingdom of God.
 - d. The Parable Of The Leaven - Mt 13:33 - shows the progress of the kingdom of God, in the heart of the individual and in society

- e. The Parable Of The Hidden Treasure - Mt 13:44 - shows the value of the truth, even in its obscured and hidden state
 - f. The Parable Of The Pearl Of Great Price - Mt 13:45-46 - shows the worthiness of the kingdom of God and its truth to be far above any price.
 - g. The Parable Of The Dragnet - Mt 13:47-50 - the kingdom of God is like the net in that it gathers both good and bad into it, and there will be eventually a separation of the two classes.
 - h. All of these reveal truths related to "the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven"
5. When His disciples answer yes, Jesus tells yet another parable...
- a. This one is called "The Parable Of The Householder" - Mt 13:52
 - b. This parable, however, is describing not so much the kingdom of heaven itself, but those (especially "scribes") who have been instructed concerning the kingdom
6. We will consider what Jesus said, and notice the truths and principles that apply to us today. first look closely at...

Discussion

I. THE PARABLE ITSELF

A. JESUS IS MAKING A POINT ABOUT A "SCRIBE"...

1. "Therefore every scribe instructed about the kingdom of heaven..."
2. From the "Holman Bible Dictionary", a scribe was a
 - a. "Person trained in writing skills and used to record events and decisions
Jer. 36:26; 1 Chron. 24:6; Esth. 3:12
 - b. During the Exile in Babylon educated scribes apparently became the experts in God's written word, copying, preserving, and teaching it.

- c. Ezra was a scribe in this sense of being an expert in teaching God's word
Ezra 7:6 NKJV "this Ezra came up from Babylon; and he was a skilled scribe in the Law of Moses, which the LORD God of Israel had given."
 - d. A professional group of such scribes developed by New Testament times, most being Pharisees (Mark 2:16). They interpreted the law, taught it to disciples, and were experts in cases where people were accused of breaking the law of Moses.
 - e. They led in plans to kill Jesus (Luke 19:47) and heard His stern rebuke (Matt. 23).
- 3. They were more than simply copyists, but students and instructors as well
 - 4. It would be assumed, therefore, that a scribe would be expected to understand the finer points of the Law of Moses

B. A SCRIBE "INSTRUCTED CONCERNING THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN..."

- 1. Jesus' point is not about a normal scribe, who would understand only the Law
- 2. But a scribe who would be instructed about the kingdom of heaven because of these parables

C. SUCH A SCRIBE "IS LIKE A HOUSEHOLDER..."

- 1. A householder with "treasure", something of great value
 - a. They did not have banks then we have now in our day.
 - b. But they did have treasure houses in which money, clothes and other useful things were stored.

- c. A householder was one who had charge of a family, whose duty it was to clothe feed, and govern them.
 - d. From this store-house he brought out things new and old as any members of his household needed things.
2. The person who learns of the kingdom of God and has his heart filled with the knowledge of the truth or one who lets "the word of Christ dwell" in him "richly" is like this householder.
 3. Treasure that is both "new" and "old"
 - a. The "old" treasure would be his understanding of the Law
 - b. The "new" treasure would be his understanding of the kingdom of heaven
 4. The parable and its "explanation" appear simple enough to understand. But there are also "implications" from the parable that are worthy of careful consideration...

II. IMPLICATIONS FROM THE PARABLE

A. EVERY DISCIPLE IS LIKE A SCRIBE...

1. This implication is a fair one to make
 - a. Because the parable was told in response to a question asked of His disciples
 - b. Because His disciples...
 - (1) ...had been told that only by understanding the Word can one bear good fruit. - Mt 13:23
 - (2) ...had been asked whether they "understood all these things?" - Mt 13:51

c. Understanding God's Word was a fundamental aspect of being a scribe, so it was to being a disciple!

2. Elsewhere Jesus makes it clear that His disciples must be like scribes

a. The very word "disciple" means a "learner", which requires one to be like a scribe - a reader and student of the word

b. In the Great Commission...

(1) Jesus told His apostles to "make disciples" (i.e., learners) - Mt 28:19

(2) His disciples would then be "taught" all that Christ commanded - Mt 28:20

B. EVERY DISCIPLE IS LIKE A HOUSEHOLDER WITH TREASURE...

1. That treasure is the Word of God, which even with the partial revelation of the Old Testament was...

a. "More to be desired than gold, yea, than much fine gold" Ps 19:7-11

b. Better than silver, fine gold, and rubies; and "all the things you may desire cannot compare with her." - Pr 3:13-18

2. The value of that treasure is enhanced with the full and final revelation of God's Will through His Son Jesus Christ - Col. 2:2-3 "That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgment of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; 3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

C. EVERY DISCIPLE HAS BOTH OLD AND NEW TREASURE...

1. Not just the new treasure, but the old as well
2. Some Christians may downplay the importance of the Old Testament, but we shouldn't!
 - a. It was written for our learning, to provide patience, comfort and hope - Rom. 15:4
 - b. It was written for our admonition - 1 Cor. 10:11 "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."
3. We do not throw away old treasure, just because we have received a new one ?
 - a. That which is "old" can help us appreciate more fully that which is "new"!
 - b. It can help make us "wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ" - 2 Tim. 3:14-15
 - (1) Continue thou in the things which thou hast learned
 - (2) He did not tell him to forget it and throw it away
 - (3) Holy Scriptures - O.T.
 - (4) Able to make thee wise unto salvation -
 - (a) Not through the O.T. Plan of Moses
 - (b) But through faith which is in Christ Jesus
 - c. As "scripture" inspired of God, it is still profitable - 2 Tim 3:16-17
4. Of course, we must "rightly divide" the word of truth - 2 Tim 2:15
 - a. By observing the distinction between the Old and New Covenants - Heb. 8:6-13

- b. By remembering that it is the fuller revelation provided by the New that helps to explain the "mystery" of the Old
- (1) Luke 24:25-27 "Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: 26 Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? 27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself." Luke 24:44-47
 - (2) It was not until Jesus fulfilled and then explained Old Testament prophecies that His disciples were able to understand
 - (3) So we should not seek to understand the New in light of the Old, but the Old in light of the New!

CONCLUSION

1. The main point is that as disciples of Jesus we have been richly blessed!
 - a. Jesus said it was because we have been blessed to see and hear things others did not - Mt 13:16-17 "But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. 17 For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear [those things] which ye hear, and have not heard them."
 - b. When we understand the parables and His other teachings concerning the kingdom of heaven, as well as the Old Testament, then we have treasure added upon treasure!
2. But we must be like the scribes of old to enjoy these treasures...
 - a. Emulating especially the example of Ezra - Ezra 7:10 "For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do [it], and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments."

- b. Preparing our hearts to seek the Word, to do it, and then to teach it
- 3. Do we appreciate the great treasure we have available to us?
 - a. Do we appreciate its greatness because it alone points us...
 - (1) To Him who is the center and theme of its revelation, Jesus Christ?
 - (2) And to His kingdom that is everlasting?
 - b. Or are we like so many, who forsake this great treasure for that which is temporary, and does not really satisfy?
- 4. Don't allow the distractions of this world to cause the "treasures" to slip through your fingers!

Bibliography

Sermon on the parables from Executable Sermon Outlines

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Evening - June 13, 2010
Evans Church of Christ
515 Gibbs Road
Evans, Ga. 30809
706-855-1249
evanscoc@bellsouth.net
www.evansgachurchofchrist.org