



INTRODUCTION: A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning (Matthew 13:10-11). These Kingdom Mysteries are in parables for two purposes: 1) To Reveal, and 2) To Conceal. These parables tell of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus from beginning to completion. And if you know what to expect, you won't be disappointed in life.

I. EXPECT MANY TO REJECT THE GOSPEL (MATTHEW 13:18-23)

The "wayside" are people who have been trampled on by this world so much that their hearts are hard and the seed can't penetrate, so birds come and take the seed.

The "stony ground" have a zeal at first, but never take root.

The "thorny ground" are those who receive Christ, but never let go of the world, so the thorns of this world choke out the Word of God.

If you're a soul-winner, expect most people you come across to reject the Gospel. But stay fervent because it is worth it for the few who will.

II. EXPECT MANY CHURCH MEMBERS TO BE HYPOCRITES (MATT. 13:24-30)

The three elements of this parable is: 1) The Sowing of the Tares – Satan's Word, 2) The Growing of the Tares – We are to let them grow together, and 3) The Knowing of the Tares – God will separate them in the end of Ages.

III. EXPECT THE RISE OF FALSE CULTS (MATTHEW 13:31-32)

The small mustard seed represents the simplicity of the Gospel while the potency of mustard represents its power.

The Gospel Seed then grows the shrub of the Church. Humble, yet it fulfills its wonderful purpose.

The tree is something monstrous that unnaturally grew out of the shrub. It is the Apostate Church.

And the birds that lodge in the tree are demonic powers (13:4, 19).

The same word for "fowls" in verse 4 is used for "birds" in verse 32, the Greek word *peteinon* (πετεινον). It is also used in Revelation 18:2.

Revelation 18:2, "And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird."

1 Timothy 4:1, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;"

IV. EXPECT TO FIND CORRUPTION IN THE CHURCH (MATTHEW 13:33)

Unleavened bread is a symbol of purity, while leaven is a symbol of sin and corruption.

Exodus 12:8, "And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it."

1 Corinthians 5:6-8, "6Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? 7Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: 8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."

A. THE LEAVEN OF THE PHARISEES – LEGALISM

B. THE LEAVEN OF THE SADDUCEES – LIBERALISM

C. THE LEAVEN OF HEROD – LICENSE

V. EXPECT GOD TO KEEP HIS WORD TO ISRAEL (MATTHEW 13:44)

The treasure hid in a field is the nation of Israel. Israel was a nation that was small when Jesus came to this earth, and for a brief moment, Jesus uncovered the treasure (Matthew 12:27-28).

Proverbs 25:2, "It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter."

When you read the Book of Matthew, up to chapter twelve Jesus is primarily teaching through miracles. But after chapter twelve He is primarily teaching through parables. Why? He has covered up the treasure. Before chapter twelve, Jesus is uncovering the treasure. They refused it, so He just covered it back up (13:10-13).

Now, one day Jesus is going to come again in glory to reclaim His treasure.

VI. EXPECT JESUS TO BUILD HIS CHURCH (MATTHEW 13:45-46)

The Pearl of Great Price is not the Gospel, as many believe, but is in fact the church, as we saw this morning. The man seeking goodly pearls is Jesus. The pearl is formed from an irritant, maybe a piece of dirt, as the oyster forms layer upon layer of nacre around it making it into a pure, unblemished, and indivisible pearl.

VII. EXPECT GOD TO JUDGE RIGHTEOUSLY (MATTHEW 13:47-51)

The Kingdom of God is like a net that we just draw through the nations of this world, and at the end of the ages, God, the same one who separates the wheat from the tares, is the same God who will separate the saved from the lost in the parable of the net.