

## **Interpreting Jesus' *Parables***

### **Matthew 13**

(Dr. Carl Laney, 2019)

Jesus, the Master Teacher

#### **Controversy Over the King Matthew 11:1-14:12**

Jesus has presented His message and authenticated it with miracles.

Now controversy begins, leading to His rejection by the Jewish nation.

#### **Matthew 12 A Key Turning Point**

No longer announcing, "the kingdom is at hand."

## Matthew 12     *REJECTION*

From this point on in his ministry, Jesus deals with the people as a nation set on the course of rejection.

### Questions About the Kingdom

- What will happen to the kingdom?
- Has the kingdom been canceled?
- How will God deal with believers until His kingdom is established?

### Rabbis Taught with Parables

- A first century instructional tool
- 4000 rabbinic parables
- Jesus was a Jewish rabbi functioning in a rabbinic world.

### Parable of Two Foundations

A person in whom there are good deeds and who has studied the Torah extensively, what is he like?

A man who builds first of stones and then afterwards of mud bricks. Even if a large quantity of water were to collect beside the stones, it would not destroy them. But a person in whom there are no good deeds, though he has studied Torah, what is he like? A man who builds first of mud bricks and then afterwards [of] stones. Even if only a little water collects, it immediately undermines them.

### Parable of the Two Cups

A person in whom there are good deeds and who has studied Torah extensively, what is he like?

A cup that has a base. But a person in who there are not good deeds and who has studied Torah extensively, what is he like? A cup that has no base. When the cup is filled it falls on its side and all its contents are spilled.

### Parable of the Two Trees

A person whose knowledge is greater than his deeds, what is he like?

A tree whose branches are many but whose roots are few: the wind comes and uproots and overturns it. But a person whose deeds are greater than his knowledge, what is he like? A tree whose branches are few but whose roots are many: even if all the winds were to come and blow against it, they could not move it.

## The World of Jesus

“Jesus himself was a Jew and a rabbi who spoke Hebrew, used familiar rabbinic methods of teaching and drew upon Jewish Scriptures and oral rabbinic traditions.”

David Bivin, *Rabbinic Parables*

## Hermeneutics of Parables

What is a parable?

From *parabollo* (to compare) and denotes placing one thing beside another to make a *comparison*.

## The Problem with Parables

Parables have been subjected to the excesses of *allegorism*.

## The Purpose of Parables

- Reveal and conceal
- Warn of rejection
- Perpetuate teaching

## The Interpretation of Parables

- Recover the setting
- Discover the problem
- Understand the background

## The Interpretation of Parables

- Determine the central truth
- Recognize the kingdom message
- Make personal application

## Making Application

- Is there a truth to learn?
- Is there an attitude to develop?
- Is there something to do?

## Explaining the Kingdom

- What is going to happen next?
- Has the kingdom been cancelled?
- How will God be working in this age?

## Mysteries of the Kingdom

*The Shadows*

*The Substance*

### The Kingdom of God

Present Age

Tribulation

Age to Come

Inter-Advent Age

Rejection

Acceptance

## The Parables

They reveal some of the significant features of the *Kingdom of God* as it is being manifested in this present age.

### Parable of the Sower

Four soils and four responses.  
Interpreted in 13:19-23

### Parable of the Sower

There will be a proclamation of the kingdom with varying responses--depending on the preparedness of the soil.

### Parable of the Tares

A counterfeit kingdom will parallel the true kingdom in the present age.

### Parable of the Mustard Seed

The mustard seed is the smallest of the garden seeds.

The kingdom may have an insignificant beginning, but will grow to great proportions.

### Parable of the Leavening Process

The kingdom will grow by an internal dynamic rather than an outward organization.

### Parable of the Hid Treasure

The kingdom is of great value and worth pursuing.

### The Parable of the Pearl

The kingdom is of surpassing value. Its' worth surpasses all else in life!

### Parable of the Drag-Net

Use of a drag net or seine

### Parable of the Drag Net

After the catch, the fisherman must separate the good fish from the bad fish

### Parable of the Drag Net

There will be a judgment to separate the good from the bad and take believers into the kingdom

## Parable of the Householder

Disciples must search the treasury of God's Word to discover *old* and *new* truths about the kingdom.



*"Knowing God through the Bible has become the essence of my life."*

*A Wetherell Johnson*