

LEARNING FROM THE PARABLES OF CHRIST

Matthew 11:28-30
Mark 4:1-12 & Matthew 13

Wednesday, December 21, 2011
7 PM - 8:30 PM

THE BARREN FIG TREE

Luke 13:6-9

THESIS: The ultimate purpose of all of us is to honor and glorify God through Love, Obedience, Virtue and Edification.

INTRODUCTION

Keep in mind, the parable is an extended figure of speech in which one thing is likened to another. “A parable is a saying or story that seeks to drive home a point the speaker wishes to emphasize by illustrating it from a familiar situation of common life” (Zondervan Encyclopedia of the Bible). The parable will illustrate truth; impart instruction; and increase information.

The parable of The Barren Fig Tree refers to the nation of Israel. The parable is intended to

BODY

I SALT

The character of the Believer is his “new nature”, he is a new creation. He is born of God. He is to be different from the world. (1 John 3:1-10). There are the Spiritual Qualities of distinction and difference in him as a Child of God. By nature, he is different. By purpose, he is different. He is a new creation in Christ Jesus. His distinctiveness is like salt. Salt is completely different from the food or object upon which it is placed. Salt’s power lies in this difference. In like manner, believers are to be different from the world. The Spiritual Power of Their Lives and Their Testimony lies in their being different and distinctive. Moreover, an overview of verse 13 is as follows:

1. The disciples’ character: salt (v. 13)
2. The disciples’ place to salt: the earth (v. 13)
3. The disciples’ duty: to salt the earth (v. 13)
4. The danger of the disciples’: to become useless, worthless & fruitless

Some essential qualities of salt should be mentioned.

A. Salt Penetrates

1.

2.

3.

B. Salt Permeates

1.

2.

3.

C. Salt Preserves

1.

2.

3.

Forming the word “salt” into an acrostic, make each letter into a positive spiritual quality of the disciple:

o S

o A

o L

o T

II LIGHT

In the second of these 2 parables, the believer is said to be what God is: “God is Light” (1John 1:5) and whom Christ said He is, “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12; 9:5). The disciple/believer is what God and Christ Jesus are: Light. Four things are said about the believer as the light of the world and whatever the light is and does, the believer is to be and do.

1. The disciples’ character: light (v. 14)
2. The disciples’ place to shine: the world (v. 14)
3. The disciples’ certain witness (v. 15)
4. The disciples purpose (v. 16)

Several essentials concerning light should receive attention.

A. Light Shines

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

B. Light Shows

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

C. Light Serves

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Forming the word light into an acrostic, make each letter into a positive spiritual quality of the disciple:

- o L
- o I
- o G
- o H
- o T

