

LEARNING FROM THE PARABLES OF CHRIST

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

Wednesday, October 5, 2011
7 PM - 8:30 PM

“THE PARABLE”

THESIS: As the “End Time” approaches and draws nearer, it is a must for “True Believers” in Christ Jesus to conform to the Word of God; and thereby be transformed (*undergo a complete change which, under the Power of God will find expression in character and conduct*) into a mature; grown-up; developed; finished; fit; seasoned; and settled “saint.”

INTRODUCTION

The parable is an extended figure of speech in which one thing is likened to another. Moreover, “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). In the O.T. there are 26 parables recorded; and in the N.T. 70 parables are included. Several purposes of parables: 1) to reveal/make known mysteries by comparison with things already known (Mt. 13:11); 2) to uncover truth in a form seeking to create more interest (Mt. 13:11,16); and 3) to unveil new truths (Mt. 13:11-12, 16-17) and add TRUTH to those who love it and desire TRUTH more abundantly (Mt. 13:12).

In the O.T. the Heb. word for parable is “*masal*”, meaning wisdom sayings of various types: proverb, a short, pithy saying, easy to remember; proverb, a brief story with a symbolic meaning. There are 2 N.T. words referring to the word parable: a. “*parabole*” which is found primarily in the synoptic gospels, denotes “a placing beside, to compare. It signifies a placing of one thing beside another with a view to comparison. Christ’s “parables” most frequently convey truths connected with the subject of the kingdom of God, His withholding the meaning from His hearers as He did from the multitudes, Mt. 13:34, was a divine judgment upon the unworthy; and b. “*paroimia*”, found in the Gospel of John, denoting “a wayside saying.” The word is sometimes spoken of as a “parable,” John 10:6.

Synonyms for “Parables”

- o comparison (Mk. 4:30) “to place side by side; under the Guidance of the Holy Spirit communicating spiritual things by spiritual things or words, in the sense of interpreting spiritual things to spiritual men.
- o illustration (Mt. 13:31-36) an example, story, analogy used to explain or make something clear.

- o **proverb (Lk 4:23) an enigmatic saying in which profound truth is cloaked; a short, traditional saying that expresses some obvious truth of familiar experience.**
- o **figure (Heb. 9:9, 11:19) a type, like in pattern, example**

“There are two dangers to be avoided in seeking to interpret the “parables” in Scripture, that of ignoring the important features, and that of trying to make all the details mean something” (Vines Complete Expository Dictionary of O.T. & N.T. Words, W. E. Vines).

BODY

As the selected “parables” of Christ are studied under the Guidance of The Holy Spirit, it is hoped Christ will be more fully learned (Mt. 11:28-30). It is expected the lessons of the “parables” will be unveiled, uncovered and understood. Confidently, the teaching(s) of the “parable(s)” will permeate the New Nature, be practiced in patience and become the peaceful principle for an Abundant Life (John 10:10).

The intent of these “parable” studies is to bring about a deeper, more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the Teachings of The Word of God. From this learning about Christ Jesus, each “True Believer” can be and become “strong in the Lord and the Power of His Might by putting on the Whole Armor of God” (Eph. 6:10-11). Consequently, these “parables” should 1) Illustrate Truth; 2) Impart Instruction; and 3) Increase Information.

A. Illustrate Truth - refers to bring to light the truth about God; Man; and Satan.

- 1) **The Illustrating will reveal, explain and clarify Truth as manifested in Scripture.
(John 5:39; 2 Pet. 1:19-21; 2:1-22)**
- 2) **The Truth concerning Righteousness, reliability and reality Regarding God, Man and Satan comes from the Revealed Word of God.
(John 8:30-32; 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16-17)**

B. Impart Instruction - refers to making known knowledge, learning, experience, data gathered through various means, which were not limited to, but included reading, meditation, prayer, fasting and organized study. (Jam. 1:-8; 3:13-18)

- 1) **Imparting of Instruction about “Life” which is deepen through studying Christ’s “parables”, which deepen, enlighten and influence understanding.
(Mt. 4:4; Prov. 1:7; 2:6-9)**

- 2) **Instruction(teaching, knowledge, direction) is to focus on “righteousness.” “Little children let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as He is righteous” (1 John 3:7; 2 Tim 3:16). Righteousness means the righteous life which is the result of salvation through Christ. Through Christ the “True Believer” does righteously because he has been made righteous in Christ. (Rom. 3:22; 10:3)**

C. Increase Information - The aim of the “True Believer” must be to advance in knowledge, understanding and wisdom about this present age and the Day of The Lord.

- 1) **This Increase in information can occur through education, experience and exposure. The result will be an enlargement, expansion and enhancement of Truth, Knowledge and The Fruit of The Spirit. (Gal. 5:22-25; 2 Pet. 1:3-9)**
- 2) **The Information acquired becomes seeds for fresh expansion of what is already known, fertilizer for flowering knowledge and shears for pruning misinformation, misdirection and missing the mark of Godliness. (Lk. 13:6-9)**

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