

Part 27 The Presence of The Future – Finale.

Matthew 13:10-17

10 And the disciples came and said to Him, “Why do You speak to them in parables?”

11 Jesus answered them, “To you IT HAS been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them IT HAS NOT been granted.

12 For whoever has, to him more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him. 13 Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. 14 In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says,

‘ You will keep on hearing, but will not understand;

You will keep on seeing, but will not perceive;

15 For the heart of this people has become dull,

With their ears they scarcely hear,

And they have closed their eyes,

Otherwise they would see with their eyes,

Hear with their ears,

And understand with their heart and return,

And I would heal them.’

Matthew 18:3

3 and said, “Truly I say to you, unless you are converted (straphēte) and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

John 12:39-40

39 For this reason they could not believe, for Isaiah said again, 40 “He has blinded their eyes and He hardened their heart, so that they would not see with their eyes and perceive with their heart, and be converted (straphōsin) and I heal them.”

BUT in contrast to those not understanding and not turning, He then says to His disciples this, great statement.

Matthew 13:16

16 But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. 17 For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

Matthew 13:44-52

Hidden Treasure

44 "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

A Costly Pearl

45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, 46 and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

A Dragnet

47 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea, and gathering fish of every kind; 48 and when it was filled, they drew it up on the beach; and they sat down and gathered the good fish into containers, but the bad they threw away.

49 So it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come forth and take out the wicked from among the righteous,

50 and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

51 "Have you understood all these things?" They *said to Him, "Yes." 52 And Jesus said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a head of a household, who brings out of his treasure things new and old."

Acts 18:4

4 And he was reasoning in the synagogue every Sabbath and trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.

Acts 26:28

28 Agrippa replied to Paul, "In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian."

Acts 28:23-27

23 When they had set a day for Paul, they came to him at his lodging in large numbers; and he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus, from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening. 24 Some were being persuaded by the things spoken, BUT others would not believe. 25 And when they did not agree with one another, they began leaving after Paul had spoken one parting word, "The Holy Spirit rightly spoke through Isaiah the prophet to your fathers, 26 saying, 'GO to this people and say, ' You will keep on hearing, but will not understand; And you will keep on seeing, but will not perceive; 27 For the heart of this people has become dull, And with their ears they scarcely hear, And they have closed their eyes; Otherwise they might see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart and return, And I would heal them.'"

A "must read" essay entitled "Gospel of The Kingdom" by William D Ramey:

<https://www.inthebeginning.org/kingdom/ramey/pdf/kingdomintroduction.pdf>

A quote from a book, entitled 'The Presence of The Future' by George Eldon Ladd;

'The kingdom has come into history but in such a way that society is not disrupted. The sons of the kingdom have received Gods reign and entered into its blessings. Yet they must continue to live in this age, intermingled with the wicked in a mixed society. Only at the eschatological coming of the kingdom will the separation take place. Here is indeed the revelation of a new truth; that the kingdom can actually come into the world, creating sons who can enjoy its blessings without effecting it's eschatological judgement. However this separation is sure to come.

The kingdom which is present but hidden in the world will yet be manifested in glory. There will be an end of the mixed society. The wicked will be gathered out and the righteous will shine like the sun in the eschatological Kingdom".