

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What is a parable?
2. Why did Jesus often teach in parables?
3. Why did so many of Jesus' listeners fail to understand Him?
4. Do we have definite understanding of Jesus' parables today?

SUMMARY:

Jesus spoke to His disciples and to the multitudes in parables. In the parable of the sower He told His listeners of the ways in which God's Word would be received: some will hear, but will not understand; some will not be able to withstand tribulation and persecution for the Word's sake; some will be carried away by the cares and riches of this world. But, thanks be to God, some will bring forth fruit to His honor and glory.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #5

February 3, 2008

First Quarter

THE MASTER'S TEACHING

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 13:1-23

LESSON SETTING: Jesus in a boat preaching to the multitudes gathered on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.

TIME: About 28 -31 A.D.

- I. THE FACTS OF THE PARABLE.** Matthew 13:1-9
 - A. The Sower. Psalm 126:5-6; Proverbs 11:18; Mark 4:14; 2 Corinthians 9:6; Galatians 6:7-8
 - B. The Seeds. Deuteronomy 22:9; Psalm 1:3; John 12:24; Galatians 3:16
 - C. The Soil. Matthew 7:26; Luke 6:49; Acts 17:11; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; James 1:23-24
- II. THE REASON FOR THE PARABLE.** Matthew 13:10-17
 - A. Mysteries. Ecclesiastes 2:14; John 16:12; 1 Corinthians 13:12; Ephesians 3:5
 - B. Spiritual Abundance. Psalm 36:8; 132:15; 2 Corinthians 9:8; Philippians 4:19
 - C. Spiritual Lack. Isaiah 59:10; Mark 8:36; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 2 Timothy 3:7; 4:4
- III. THE MEANING OF THE PARABLE.** Matthew 13:18-23
 - A. Wayside. Matthew 3:10; Luke 13:6; Hebrews 6:8
 - B. Stony Places. Hosea 6:4; Hebrews 13:9; James 1:6
 - C. Among Thorns. Matthew 6:31-32; Luke 10:40; 21:34
 - D. Good Soil. Psalm 92:13-14; Galatians 5:22-23; Philippians 1:11

GOLDEN TEXT: *THESE WORDS WHICH I COMMAND THEE THIS DAY, SHALL BE IN THINE HEART.* Deuteronomy 6:6

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Genesis 19:1-29; Luke 12:8-9

QUARTERLY THEME: Christ - King and Savior

TOPIC: CHRIST, THE MASTER JUDGE

INTRODUCTION:

In the Kingdom of Heaven the tares were permitted to live and grow side by side with the wheat until the end of the world. Then they were separated. The tares to be burned; the wheat to be harvested and saved. In the world the unconverted live and grow side by side with the converted until the end. Then they are separated. The Master makes no mistake. The unconverted or nominal Christian may look so much like the converted Christian that man cannot tell the difference, even as the tares look very much like the true wheat, but the Lord knows the difference and is a righteous judge. He makes no mistakes, but He does permit all to live side by side until their days are fulfilled. Then the judgment is pronounced and each is given his just reward. A fearful judgment awaits those who do not accept the gospel of Jesus Christ.

CENTRAL TRUTH: The effectiveness of the Word of God depends upon the attitude with which men receive it.

GOLDEN TEXT: SO THEN EVERY ONE OF US SHALL GIVE ACCOUNT OF HIMSELF TO GOD.

Romans 14:12

We could never stand in the judgment before God and give account of ourselves, had we not as Master, Savior and High Priest, the very Son of God, who redeemed us with His own blood. A loving Elder Brother tells how he was imprisoned during the war in Europe. He pleaded with God, not for freedom, but that his children might seek the Lord's salvation, even offering his own life in return for this favor from God. His children did seek and find salvation, but God revealed to His faithful servant that his life would not be required in return, since God's own Son had already paid the price to redeem the whole world.

Of what then shall we give account to God? *“And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”* (John 3:19) *“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?”* (Hebrews 2:3)

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF February 4 - 10

M. *The Parable of the Tares. Matthew 13:24-30

T. *Christ, the Master judge. Matthew 13:36-43

W. God Prepares to Judge Sodom. Genesis 18:16-22

T. God's Principle of Justice. Genesis 18:23-33

F. God's Mercy During Judgment. Genesis 19:12-16

S. God's Judgment on Sodom. Genesis 19:17-29

S. The Great Judgment. Revelation 20:7-15