



Secrets of the Kingdom of God

Matthew 13:1-23 “Parable of the Sower”

INTRODUCTION

The Parable of Sower is the first parable that Jesus used in his teachings. This surprised the Disciples that is why they asked Him in v. 13 “Why do you speak to the people in parables?” His answer in v.11 reveals the reason behind the parable. He said, “The knowledge (Ginosko knowledge based on connection rather than information) of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but to them.

The word SECRET, which is from the Greek word *mysteria* and its Old Testament counterpart the Aramaic, word “RAZ”, is called mystery or revealed secret, something that could not be understood apart from divine revelation. A good example of his is found in Daniel chapter two where Daniel and his friends were confronted with the challenge of interpreting a dream that they do not even know about. And they are not able to give the interpretation, their lives are at risk. The situation pushed them to come to their knees and pleaded God to reveal it to them. God is Gracious and He revealed it to them. Daniel 2:19 During the night, the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven.

The method that Jesus Christ used to reveal the secrets or mystery of het Kingdom of God is Parable. Parable came from two Greek words PARA which means beside and BALLEIN, to throw. Hence, parable basically means the placing, tossing, or projecting of one thing alongside another to reveal something. This gives us the idea that a Parable in this context is

a story that hid the secrets of the Kingdom of God from the non-believers but reveal it to the believers.

WHAT ARE THE SECRETS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

I. THE ENTRANCE INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD – (Through Spiritual Rebirth)

A. How can a person enter into the Kingdom of God?

1. John 3:3 in reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”
2. John 3:5 Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

B. What does born of water and the Spirit means?

1. The Water is the Word of God
Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other but holy and blameless.
2. The Spirit is the Holy Spirit. One of the Works of the Holy Spirit is to bring the Word of God into its fulfillment/completion. He only works according to what is written and nothing more.

II. THE SEED IS GOD’S AGENT OF Spiritual Rebirth. (The Word of God)

- A. **Romans 10:17** Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.
- B. John 6:63 The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.
- C. Ephesians 1:13 And you were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession – to the praise of His glory.
- D. 1 Peter 1:23 for you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. 24 For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, 25 but the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.

III. **THE HEART IS THE PLACE WHERE SPIRITUAL REBIRTH TAKES PLACE. (Four kinds of soils inside the heart)**

- A. **Roadside** – (runway, wayward, elusive soil of the heart)
When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path v. 19.
- B. **Rocky place** – (hard, bitter, unforgiving soil of the heart). The one who and at once receives it with joy. But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When

trouble or persecution comes because of the Word, he quickly falls away **vs. 20-21**.

Matthew 13:15 For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.

C. **Thorny place** – (Deceitful, devious soil of the heart) The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the Word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful **v. 22**.

D. **Good soil** – (Humble and lowly soil of the heart) But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown **v. 23**.

Matthew 13:16 But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. ¹⁷ For I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

IV. THE EVIDENCE OF KINGDOM LIFE (Fruitfulness)

V. 12 – Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.

A. What Jesus said

John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

B. What are the Fruit that will Last?

1. The Fruit of the Spirit – The Inward Fruit (Character).

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

2. The Fruit of our Lips – Upward Fruit (Praise and Worship)

Hosea 14:2 Take words with you and return to the LORD. Say to Him: Forgive all our sins and receive us graciously, that we may offer the fruit of our lips.

Hebrews 13:15 Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise - - the fruit of lips that confess His name.

1 Peter 2:5 You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

3. The Fruit of Discipleship – The Outward Fruit (Evangelism & Discipleship).

Matthew 28:18-20 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

2 Timothy 2:2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

Note: Fruitfulness is not flawlessness/faultlessness. Fruitfulness is letting the word of God bear its fruit in our hearts. This will only happen if the seed is planted in the good soil of our heart.

- V. WARNING AGAINST COMPLACENCY (Feeling of satisfaction with self. The attitude that says to self I don't need to change, I am okay).
- A. **1 John 5:18-20 v.20** – We know (OIDA) also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know (GINOSKO) HIM who is true. And we are in him who is true – even in His Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life”.
- Matthew 7:21** “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ I will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will (John 6:40) of my Father is in heaven.²² Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’²³ Then I will tell you plainly, ‘I never knew (GINOSKO) you. Away from me, you evildoers!’
- B. Hot Spots of salvation scriptures (Scriptures that says you can lose your Salvation).

Hebrews 6:4 It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵ who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and powers of the coming age, ⁶ if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

Hebrews 10:26 If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, ²⁷ but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. ²⁸ Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished how has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? ³⁰ For we know him who said, “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” and again, “The Lord will judge his people.” ³¹ **It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**

2 Peter 2:20 If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing (EPIGNOSIS – Perfect Knowledge) our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at beginning. ²¹ It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred commend that was passed on to them. ²² Of them the proverbs are true: “A dog returns to its vomit,” and, “A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud.”

CONCLUSION

1. You will lose your salvation if the seed of salvation is planted in the Roadside, Rocky, and thorny soil of your heart.
2. You will not lose your salvation if the seed of salvation is planted in the good soil of your heart. Because the seed will grow and bearing fruit a cycle that is endless in nature.
3. 2 Peter 1:10-11 says “You have to make your calling and election sure.” **Do not assume that you are saved, be certain. Your soul is too precious not to heed this challenge.**
4. Meditation of the word of God is the key to make our salvation certain. Psalm 1 clearly describes the result of meditating on the Word of God.