

I. Where We Are and Where We Are Going

- a) We are still in our "Come Up Here" series. Our path to where we are going is not a straight path. But we are still going toward our goal of a new worship wineskin.
- b) Last week was about the unshakable kingdom. The Lord is building an unshakable kingdom within His people. These will not be moved when the external shaking intensifies at the end of the age.
- c) For the two weeks before that, dad taught on Warring by God's Goodness.
- d) But before all of that, for several weeks, we have been focused on point #6 of our worship model: True worship flows out of our secret place relationship with Jesus.
- e) We spent several weeks talking about knowing God practically. I talked about:
 - 20 things I have learned about knowing God practically;
 - What to do in your time alone with the Lord, such as conversational intimacy, agreeing with the truth and renouncing lies, and praying the Word.
- f) I will finish the Come Up Here series before Christmas and start a new series in January.
- g) In this message, I will build upon knowing God and talk about planting the Word in our heart. This message will connect last week's message on the unshakable kingdom with knowing God by planting His word into our heart.

II. Review from Last Week

- a) We live in difficult times. We live at the end of the age. We live in a time when everything that can be shaken will be shaken, both in the heavens and in the earth. In these challenging times, God is raising up a people who will have the kingdom of God fully established within them. The Lord is releasing a movement from the throne of establishing the kingdom of God fully within a people. This will lead to a holy of holies relationship with Him.
- b) Those who have the kingdom of God fully established within them will return with Jesus to establish the kingdom of God in fullness throughout the earth. Like Jesus said, "The meek...shall inherit the earth" (Matt. 5:5, NKJV).
- c) There will be a great falling away in the church. We are already seeing the beginning of this right now. It will surely increase as the difficulties intensify. One way to ensure that this doesn't happen is to plant the word of God deep into our heart and to take ownership of the Word. We have to go deep and we can't live off another's revelation. It must become our own.
- d) Last week, we looked at two key verses:
 - Matthew 13:15: "Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil."
 - Matthew 13:21: "Yet he has no [firm] root in himself, but is [only] temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away."
- e) This week we are going to take in-depth look at the parable of the sower so that we can be a people who have depth and ownership of God's word.

III. The Kingdom of God

- a) Jesus called the sower's seed "the word of the kingdom" (Matt. 13:19). Therefore, to understand the parable of the sower, we need a basic understanding of the kingdom of God.
- b) We will start by looking at a few Scriptures about the kingdom of God.
 - Luke 17:20-21: "Now having been questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, He answered them and said, 'The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; nor will they say, "Look, here [it is!]" or, "There [it is!]" For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst.'"
 - Revelation 11:15: "Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become [the kingdom] of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever."
 - Revelation 12:10: "Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, 'Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.'"

IV. Defining the Kingdom of God

- a) The three components of a kingdom are: 1) A sovereign ruler; 2) a people who are ruled; and 3) a territory where this rule takes place.
- b) Jesus is the authoritative ruler of the kingdom of God. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords. Wherever He is, there is His kingdom. Wherever Jesus' Spirit is welcomed and embraced, there the kingdom of God has been established.
- c) The people who have been conquered are the church, God's own people who have voluntarily submitted to the lordship of Jesus Christ. Actually, a better way to say it is that we are being conquered, for it takes a lifetime to reconstitute our entire being into the nature of the Lamb. Until the day we meet the Lord face-to-face, the indwelling Spirit will be breaking our pride, independence, rebellion, and selfishness. He will not relent until our deepest motives, desires, thoughts, emotions, and inclinations are fully yielded to the Lamb. His work will continue until Christ is Lord of every part of our being. So, God's people, the church, are the ones voluntarily being conquered and brought into submission to the internal reign of the Lamb.
- d) The realm where this rule takes place begins in the spirit, heart, and soul of God's own people. Because of the "Christ in you" reality, the King dwells within us. That means the kingdom of God dwells within us. Every part of our being, where we allow the Spirit to establish the reign of the Lamb, is where the kingdom of God resides. That means the kingdom of God begins internally within the hearts and souls of God's people.
- e) With all of this in mind, my definition of the kingdom of God is: The realm where the person of Christ and His Spirit reign.
- f) This reign begins within the heart and soul of God's people, it flows outward from us wherever we go, it advances as others surrender to the lordship of Christ, and it will be fully established in every sphere of all nations when Jesus returns. As Isaiah said, "There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace" (Isa. 9:7). God's kingdom will never stop expanding. Ever.
- g) The kingdom of God is established:
 - Within a people in this age (the Church Age);

- In every sphere of society in all nations through His kingdom people during the Kingdom Age;
- Throughout the entire universe, as His government never stops expanding, for the endless ages of eternity.

V. Overview of Matthew 13

- To understand the parable of the sower, we have to understand Matthew 13. In this chapter, the word "kingdom" is used twelve times, showing that this chapter is focused on the kingdom. Specifically, this chapter is focused on the internal kingdom established within a people, resulting in the kingdom of God extending outward in fullness.
- The kingdom of God will be established within a people in this age (the Church Age). As the kingdom is established within God's people, the kingdom of God flows outward from them, influencing and impacting the culture with the kingdom. But there will not be kingdom dominion until the next age, after Jesus returns.
- In the next age, those who have the kingdom of God established within them will return with Jesus and will extend the kingdom of God into every sphere of society. In the Kingdom Age or Millennial Kingdom, the kingdom of God will have dominion in every government, economic system, educational system, family, the media, arts and entertainment, and the business world.
- The parable of the sower*
 - *Verses:* Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23
 - *Focus:* The internal kingdom
 - *Summary:*
The word of the kingdom planted in our heart produces the kingdom of God within. Our hearts are the garden and we must be like a gardener who cultivates our hearts, allowing the word of the kingdom to be firmly planted within us. When this happens, the word itself will do the work of transformation.
- The parable of the wheat and tares*
 - *Verses:* Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
 - *Focus:* The internal kingdom leading to the external kingdom
 - *Summary:*
This parable is connected with the parable of the sower. Jesus told this parable right after the parable of the sower. Here's the idea: Seeds produce sons. The wheat are the "sons of the kingdom." Sons is the Greek word *huios*. This word is used to depict maturity and Christ-likeness.
The sons of the kingdom will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. As the word of the kingdom is successfully planted into a pure heart, free from anxiety, lust, pride, coveting, jealousy, envy, doubt, and unbelief, it will in due time produce the kingdom of God within the heart and soul. As the kingdom fully grows within a people, these people will be trusted with kingdom authority, including the rod of iron to rule nations and sitting with Jesus on His throne.
- The parable of the mustard seed*
 - *Verses:* Matthew 13:31-32

- *Focus:* The internal kingdom leading to the external kingdom
- *Summary:*

The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed planted into the heart. When it is “full grown,” speaking of the fullness of Christ within individuals joined to other living stones with the fullness of Christ, then it becomes a tree that the birds of the air nest under. Jesus said that it “becomes a tree, so that THE BIRDS OF THE AIR come and NEST IN ITS BRANCHES.” This is a direct reference to Daniel 4:20-22.

Daniel 4:20-22 states: “The tree that you saw, which became large and grew strong, whose height reached to the sky and was visible to all the earth and whose foliage [was] beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in which [was] food for all, under which the beasts of the field dwelt and in whose branches the birds of the sky lodged—it is you, O king [Nebuchadnezzar]; for you have become great and grown strong, and your majesty has become great and reached to the sky and your dominion to the end of the earth.”

I believe the Lord strategically brought the main message of the book of Daniel into His teaching in Matthew 13. Namely, the kingdoms of man will become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ. The statue (Daniel 2) and the beasts (Daniel 7) of man’s kingdoms will be crushed by the Lord’s kingdom when He returns. The kingdom of God is a rock that will crush the kingdom’s of man. Then it will become a mountain that will fill the whole earth.

Daniel 7:17-18 states: “These great beasts, which are four [in number,] are four kings [who] will arise from the earth. But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come.” Basically, the Lord is saying, “Just as Nebuchadnezzar had a world-wide kingdom and sovereignty over every nation, the same will be true of those who allow the mustard seed of My kingdom to grow in fullness within them. These will receive true kingdom authority, will return with Me at the second coming, and will be used to establish My kingdom throughout the entire earth in fullness.”

g) *The parable of the leaven*

- *Verses:* Matthew 13:33
- *Focus:* Internal kingdom
- *Summary:*

The kingdom of God is hidden and internal. It grows slowly and imperceptibly within a people. And growing from the inside out, it finally becomes visible and external when it has been established in fullness.

h) *The parable of the treasure*

- *Verses:* Matthew 13:44
- *Focus:* Internal kingdom
- *Summary:*

The kingdom of God is hidden. The eye cannot see it because it’s internal. But when we see it and find it, we become so filled with joy that we are ruined by it. We surrender everything to have it. And then we hide it again within our own heart and soul.

i) *The parable of the merchant*

- *Verses:* Matthew 13:45
- *Focus:* Internal kingdom
- *Summary:*

The kingdom of God is hidden and must be discovered. You can't see it with your eyes. But when you do find it by revelation from the Spirit, you surrender everything to have the kingdom in fullness.

VI. Summary of the Parable of the Sower

- a) The parable of the sower shows *how* the kingdom of God is established within a people in this age. In the next age, these same people will return with Jesus to establish the kingdom in fullness in every sphere of society in all nations during Christ's millennial reign.
- b) The seed is "the word of the kingdom" (Matt. 13:19). It's the gospel of the kingdom, the kingdom message, the good news of the kingdom.
- c) Most messages these days are not the gospel of the kingdom. So, the parable of the sower doesn't really apply to those hearing messages in seeker-sensitive, legalistic, hyper-grace, or prosperity-gospel type churches. As a result, the kingdom of God cannot be established within them.
- d) Nevertheless, the Lord is restoring the gospel of the kingdom. Messengers will begin to preach Jesus as the absolute Lord and King and they will carry the full revelation of the kingdom of God. Then those who hear this message can then have the kingdom established within them. Some 30-fold, some 60-fold, and some 100-fold.
- e) Jesus said, "Who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty" (Matt. 13:23).
- f) The 30-fold = The least of the kingdom. The realm of the least. The outer court.
 - Matthew 5:19: "Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others [to do] the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches [them,] he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."
 - Matthew 11:11: "Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen [anyone] greater than John the Baptist! Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."
- g) The 60-fold = The holy place.
- h) The 100-fold = The overcomers. The realm of the overcomers. The holy of holies.
- i) These Scriptures show the importance of hearing so that the kingdom can be established within us.
 - Matthew 13:9: "He who has ears, let him hear."
 - Mark 4:22-25: "For nothing is hidden, except to be revealed; nor has [anything] been secret, but that it would come to light. If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear." And He was saying to them, "Take care what you listen to. By your standard of measure it will be measured to you; and more will be given you besides. For whoever has, to him [more] shall be given; and whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him."

VII. Truths from the Parable of the Sower

1. Our heart is the garden.
 - Matthew 13:19: "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil [one] comes and snatches away what has been sown in his *heart*. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road."

- Our heart is the garden where the word of the kingdom is planted. If the word is successfully planted, it will grow outward into our soul, bringing full deliverance or salvation (James 1:22).
2. We must have revelation of the kingdom message.
 - The word of the kingdom must be understood by living revelation and not just cerebral knowledge.
 - Matthew 13:19: "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil [one] comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road."
 3. We must go deep and own their Word for ourselves.
 - Each of us must have our own revelation of the King and His kingdom and not rely on another's revelation. We must have ownership of the word by revelation, going further than mere head knowledge. We must allow the word of the kingdom to go deep into our heart.
 - Hearing messages or reading books are meant to be a catalyst for us to plant the word in our heart ourselves.
 - Matthew 13:5, 20-21: "Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil....The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no [firm] root in himself, but is [only] temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away."
 4. We are gardeners who are responsible for preparing our hearts for the Word.
 - We must cleanse our heart from everything that would choke the word. This would include fear, anxiety, discouragement, lust, pride, selfishness, doubt, unbelief, greed, coveting, the pleasures of this life, and the deceitfulness of money.
 - Matthew 13:22: "And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful."
 5. The implanted Word itself does the work of transformation.
 - Mark 4:26-29: "The kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed upon the soil; and he goes to bed at night and gets up by day, and the seed sprouts and grows—how, he himself does not know. The soil produces crops by itself; first the blade, then the head, then the mature grain in the head. But when the crop permits, he immediately puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."
 - James 1:21: "Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and [all] that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls."