

March 20–26

Matthew 13; Luke 8; 13

“Who Hath Ears to Hear, Let Him Hear”



Parables

Matt 13:10-14

What reason does Jesus give for teaching with parables?

Bible dictionary

From the Lord's own words we learn the reason for this method. It was to veil the meaning. The parable conveys to the hearer religious truth exactly in proportion to his faith and intelligence; and to the dull and uninspired it is a mere story "seeing they see not," while to the instructed and spiritual it reveals the mysteries or secrets of the kingdom of heaven." (Bible Dictionary, Parables)

Parables

Matt 13:15-17

Spencer W. Kimball

“It is inconceivable that otherwise intelligent, astute, and highly educated people should ignore or wilfully disregard this great privilege. The doors can be unlocked. The gap can be bridged. And men can walk safely, securely to never-ending happiness....

“The Lord knew that those who were sincere in heart and who really wished to know the mysteries of the kingdom would seek and search prayerfully until they informed themselves.” (CR, Oct. 1964)

Parable of the Sower

Alma 32:28,38

[28] Now, we will compare the word unto a seed. Now, if ye give place, that a seed may be planted in your heart, behold, if it be a true seed, or a good seed, if ye do not cast it out by your unbelief, that ye will resist the Spirit of the Lord, behold, it will begin to swell within your breasts; and when you feel these swelling motions, ye will begin to say within yourselves -- It must needs be that this is a good seed, or that the word is good, for it beginneth to enlarge my soul; yea, it beginneth to enlighten my understanding, yea, it beginneth to be delicious to me.

[38] But if ye neglect the tree, and take no thought for its nourishment, behold it will not get any root; and when the heat of the sun cometh and scorcheth it, because it hath no root it withers away, and ye pluck it up and cast it out.

Parable of the Sower

Matt 13:3-9

Generally speaking, what do the different conditions of the soil represent?

Dallin H. Oaks

"Jesus explained to His disciples. The seed that was sown was 'the word of the kingdom' (Matt 13:19), 'the word' (Mark 4:14), or 'the word of God' (Luke 8:11) - the teachings of the Master and His servants.

"The different soils on which the seeds fell represent different ways in which mortals receive and follow these teachings...

"The parable of the sower warns us of circumstances and attitudes that can keep anyone who has received the seed of the gospel message from bringing forth a goodly harvest." (CR, April 2015)

Parable of the Sower

Matt 13:18-19

Dallin H. Oaks

“There are many whose desires are fixed so firmly on the acquisition or use of property, or on other worldly things, that they have no desire for righteousness or the things of God. In the parable of the sower, Jesus indicated that some of the sower's seed ‘fell by the way side’. He explained to his disciples that this circumstance represented those who ‘heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not’. The Prophet Joseph Smith attributed this lack of understanding of the gospel to a lack of desire:

“Men who have no principle of righteousness in themselves, and whose hearts are full of iniquity, and have no desire for the principles of truth, do not understand the word of truth when they hear it. The devil taketh away the word of truth out of their hearts, because there is no desire for righteousness in them’ (HC 2:266).” (Pure in Heart, pg. 54-55)

Parable of the Sower

Matt 13:20-21

Bruce R. McConkie

“If the seed falls upon stony places where there is only a small layer of good soil, though the seed readily sprouts, it soon dies, for the roots attain no strengthening depth. Likewise, those who gain testimonies of the truth, but who do not give their whole souls to Christ; those who gain only a superficial knowledge of the doctrines of salvation; those without sufficient strength of character to keep their enthusiasm alive in the face of obstacles; those who are only lukewarm in the cause of righteousness; those whose testimonies are weakened because they discover other men have weaknesses – all such are offended and fall away when persecution arise and when they are called upon to make major sacrifices for the cause of Zion.”

(Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 1:289)

Dallin H. Oaks

“Spiritual food is necessary for spiritual survival, especially in a world that is moving away from belief in God and the absolutes of right and wrong. In an age dominated by the Internet, which magnifies messages that menace faith, we must increase our exposure to spiritual truth in order to strengthen our faith and stay rooted in the gospel.” (CR, April 2015)

Parable of the Sower

Matt 13:22

Bruce R. McConkie

“If the seed falls among thorns, it is in good soil, as is evidenced by the growth of the undesirable plants. But the good plant is soon choked and dies because it cannot overcome the influence of the weeds and thistles. So it is with the members of the Church who know the gospel is true, but who are not valiant in the testimony of Jesus, who are not affirmatively and courageously striving to further the interests of the Church. So it is of the saints who think more of the honors of men, the educational standards of the world, political preferment, or money and property, than they do of the gospel. They know the Lord's work has been established on earth, but they let the cares of the world choke the word. And instead of gaining eternal life, they shall be burned with the tares which overcame them.”
(Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 1:289)

Dallin H. Oaks

“The Savior’s warning against having the cares of this world choke out the word of God in our lives surely challenges us to keep our priorities fixed—our hearts set—on the commandments of God and the leadership of His Church.” (CR, April 2015)

Parable of the Sower

Matt 13:23

Dallin H. Oaks

“We have the seed of the gospel word. It is up to each of us to set the priorities and to do the things that make our soil good and our harvest plentiful. We must seek to be firmly rooted and converted to the gospel of Jesus Christ. We achieve this conversion by praying, by scripture reading, by serving, and by regularly partaking of the sacrament to always have His Spirit to be with us. We must also seek that mighty change of heart that replaces evil desires and selfish concerns with the love of God and the desire to serve Him and His children.”
(CR, April 2015)

Parable of the Wheat and the Tares

Matt 13:24-30

JST Matt 13:29 ...Gather ye together first the wheat into my barn; and the tares are bound in bundles to be burned.

Parable of the Wheat and the Tares

Matt 13:36-43

1. The man sowing seed is the Son of Man (Jesus).
2. The field is the world.
3. The good seed are the children of the kingdom (followers of Jesus).
4. The tares are children of the wicked one
5. The enemy is the devil.
6. The harvest is the end of the world.
7. The reapers are the angels sent to reap the field.
8. The tares bound and burned are the evil ones separated out and cast into fire (punishment) at the Judgment.
9. The wheat gathered into the barn represents the righteous who are separated out and made to “shine forth” in the kingdom of the Father.

D&C 86:1-7

1 Verily, thus saith the Lord unto you my servants, concerning the parable of the wheat and of the tares:

2 Behold, verily I say, the field was the world, and the apostles were the sowers of the seed;

3 And after they have fallen asleep the great persecutor of the church, the apostate, the whore, even Babylon, that maketh all nations to drink of her cup, in whose hearts the enemy, even Satan, sitteth to reign—behold he soweth the tares; wherefore, the tares choke the wheat and drive the church into the wilderness.

4 But behold, in the last days, even now while the Lord is *beginning* to bring forth the word, and the blade is springing up and is yet tender—

5 Behold, verily I say unto you, the angels are crying unto the Lord day and night, who are ready and waiting to be sent forth to reap down the fields;

6 But the Lord saith unto them, pluck not up the tares while the blade is yet tender (for verily your faith is weak), lest you destroy the wheat also.

7 Therefore, let the wheat and the tares grow together until the harvest is fully ripe; then ye shall first gather out the wheat from among the tares, and after the gathering of the wheat, behold and lo, the tares are bound in bundles, and the field remaineth to be burned.

1. Original 12 were sowers of the seed after Christ's crucifixion
2. After they were gone the Whore of Babylon sowed tares among the wheat
3. The tares caused the Great Apostasy
4. In these, the last days the gospel is restored and the wheat begins to grow
5. "While the Lord is beginning to bring forth the word" the wheat (faith of the Saints) is tender
6. The wheat and tares grow together until the harvest is fully ripe
7. The wheat is to be gathered first, then the tares are gathered and burned

Marion G. Romney

"Now, the basis for the hope and courage that will keep us from being troubled does not lie in the expectation that enough people will accept and obey the restored gospel to turn aside the oncoming calamities.... It lies in the assurance that everyone who will accept and obey the restored gospel of Jesus Christ shall reap the promised rewards, and this regardless of what others do. And certain it is that those who receive the blessings will have to prevail against great opposition, for the world in general is not improving. It is ripening in iniquity....

“The tempo of wickedness and destruction has been greatly accelerated... and so has the gathering in of the wheat. Even now the tares are binding themselves in bundles, making ready for the field to be burned.” (CR, Oct. 1966

Parable of the Wheat and the Tares

Matt 13:47-50

How is the message of the parable of the fishing net similar the message of the wheat and the tares?

Other Parables About the Kingdom of Heaven

Matt 13:31-32

Why is the kingdom of heaven like a mustered seed?

Wilford Woodruff

“The Lord will not fail in anything he has promised concerning the work of the latter days. Whatever opposition this Church and kingdom may have, it is the work of God. The Lord has planted and sustained it. Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to a mustard seed, the least of all seeds, but by and by when it grows it becomes a large tree, so the fowls of the air can lodge in its branches. So it has been with the kingdom of God; but we are told that the little one will become a thousand, and the small one a strong nation, and the Lord will hasten it in his own time.” (JD, 14:1)

Other Parables About the Kingdom of Heaven

Matt 13:33

How do you think that the kingdom of heaven is like leaven and rises the whole?

Russell Ballard

“In spite of all of the wickedness in the world, and in spite of all the opposition to good that we find on every hand, we should not try to take ourselves or our children out of the world. Jesus said, ‘The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven,’ or yeast. We are to lift the world and help all to rise above the wickedness that surrounds us....

“Members of the Church need to influence more than we are influenced. We should work to stem the tide of sin and evil instead of passively being swept along by it. We each need to help solve the problem rather than avoid or ignore it.” (CR, April 1989)

Other Parables About the Kingdom of Heaven

Matt 13:44-46

What must we do to obtain the greatest gift in our lives?

Bruce R. McConkie

“Thus our invitation is for men to investigate the message of the restoration, to come to a knowledge of him whom it is life eternal to know to find the path leading to the celestial city. It is for men to accept The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as the kingdom of God on earth, as ‘the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth’ (D&C 1:30). It is for truth seekers everywhere to sell all that they have and come and buy the gospel pearl, the pearl of great price.” (CR, April 1967)

Mark E. Petersen

“Let me ask you, what would you have thought of that merchant had the parable been reversed and he had given up the pearl of great price in exchange for something of little or no value?”

“We have some among us who are doing that very thing. In their own lives they reverse the parable of the Lord and they give up the pearl of great price for a fleeting fancy. They actually sell their birthright in the kingdom of God for less than a mess of pottage.” (CR, Oct. 1945)

Next Week:

March 27–April 2

Matthew 14; Mark 6; John 5–6

“Be Not Afraid”

