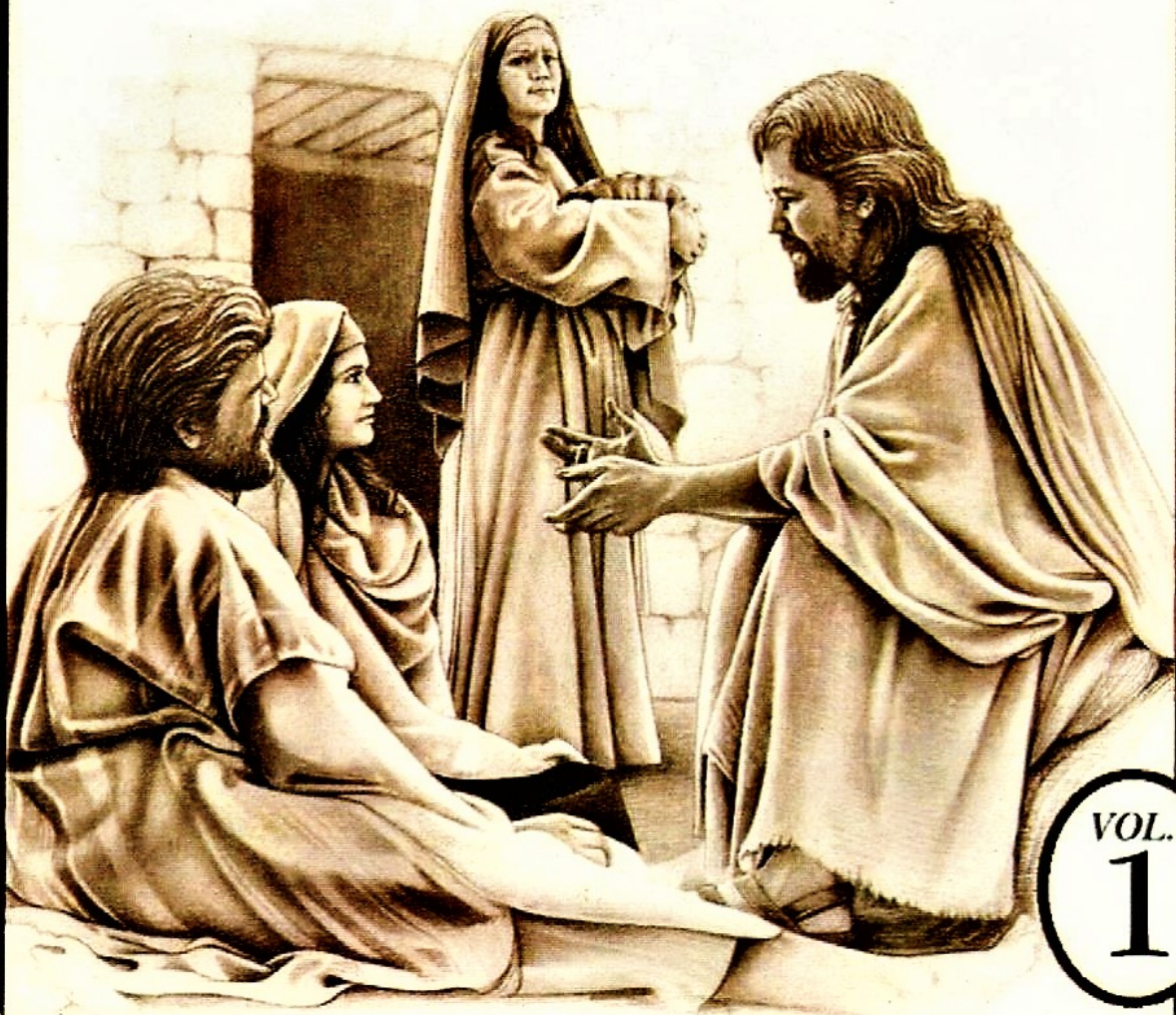


Bible Parables Made Simple

Step-by-step instructions that anyone can follow.



VOL.

1

WILLIAM T. BARRETT

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Foreword

This book is designed to “continue” where my first book “The **Bible Made Simple** Vol 1” left off. Now that you have an understanding of **How** to study the Bible and how the Bible explains and interprets itself, we can focus on various parts of the Bible. This book will begin our focus on the **Parables** of Jesus.

It is very important to understand the “**Parables**” because they contain the “Doctrines” and “Truths” that Jesus felt were the **most important** for us to understand.

As we study the “**Parables**” and discover their Doctrines and Truths, remember they are **not** the teachings of any church, but rather the teachings of Jesus Himself!

William T. Barrett

P.S

If you will read the Parables that are in this book in the order that they are presented instead of skipping around you will see the continuity of the teachings of Jesus far better.

INTRODUCTION TO:

The *Parables* of JESUS

How did JESUS communicate TRUTH to his listeners?

Matt. 13:34 “All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables: and **without a parable** spake He **not** to them.”

35 “That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying I will open my mouth in **parables**; I will utter things which have been **kept secret** from the foundation of the world.”

Mark 4:33 “And with many such **parables** spake He the **Word** unto them, as they were able to hear it.”

34 “But **without a parable** spake He **not** unto them; and when they were alone He expounded all things to His disciples.”

Conclusion:

Thus Jesus used “**Parables**” to communicate truth (“the Word”) to His listeners. The above texts also tell us that Jesus **always used parables** to teach the people,

(“ without a parable spake He not.”)

Why did JESUS speak in *Parables*?

Mark 4:2 “And **He taught them** many things by **Parables**, and said unto them in His **doctrine**.”

Matt.13:10 “And the disciples came and said unto Him, **Why speakest thou** unto them in **parables**”?

11 “He answered and said unto them, **Because** it is given unto **you to know the mysteries** of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.”

Conclusion:

Jesus spoke in **Parables** to teach “**doctrine**” to His followers and to teach the “**mysteries**” of the kingdom of heaven that had been **kept secret** from the foundation of the world”. Matt.13:35

How did JESUS “**Open the Understanding**” of *Parables* to his Disciples?

Mark 4:10 “And when He was alone, they that were about Him with the twelve asked of Him the parable.”

Mark 4:13 “And He said into them, know ye not **this parable**? And how then will ye know **all parables**?”

The disciples did **not understand** the “*Parable of the Sower*” that Jesus gave in Mark 4:3-8. Jesus told them that **if** they could understand **that parable**, then they could understand **all parables**. Then, Jesus proceeded to show them **how** to understand that parable (Mark 4:14-20) so that they **could understand all parables**.

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER (EXPLAINED BY JESUS)

- Luke 8:5** "A sower went out to sow his seed:"
- Luke 8:11** "Now the parable is this:
"The **seed** is the **Word** of God."
- Mark 4:14** "The sower soweth the Word."
- Luke 8:5** "And as he sowed, some (seed) fell by the wayside":
- Luke 8:12** "Those by the wayside are they that hear";
- Mark 4:15** "And these are they by the wayside, where the word is sown":
- Mark 4:15** "but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately and taketh away the Word that was sown in their hearts".
- Matt.13:19** "When anyone heareth the Word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the wayside."

Conclusions:

1. The **seed** represents the **Word** of God (Bible)
2. The sower represents someone teaching the Word (Bible)
3. Those by the wayside represent those that hear the Word (Bible) but don't understand it.
4. The word (Bible) was "sown" in their hearts.
5. The devil takes away the Word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

Jesus "**opened the understanding**" of the parable to his disciples, by applying a **Spiritual** meaning to each of the **real objects** in the parable. Since Jesus implied that **if you can understand this parable, you can understand **all parables****, He was teaching the principles for understanding **all parables**.

The Parable of:

“The Sower”

(Identifying the **Saved** and the **Lost**)

The Parable of:

"The Sower"

(Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23)

Matt. 13:3 And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a **sower** went forth to sow;
4 And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the wayside and the fowls came and devoured them up:
5 Some fell upon stony places where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:
6 And when the sun was up they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.
7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:
8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.
9 Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

We will begin our study of this parable by searching the Bible to see if there are any *similar parables* which might help us understand this parable. Using Strong's Concordance and the word "**sower**" we find that in Mark 4:3-9, 14-20 and in Luke 8:5-8, 11-15 there are *similar parables*. In order to see the similarities and also the differences between the parables, we will use the method that is suggested by the Bible when trying to understand complex passages of Scripture.

Habakkuk 2:2 And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon **tables**, that he may run that readeth it.

By using a **table** we can easily see the **similarities** and the differences between the parables.

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER (EXPLAINED)

BIBLE VERSES	JESUS' EXPLANATION
<p style="text-align: center;">Luke 8: 5</p> <p>5 A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Luke 8: 11, 12</p> <p>11 Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. 12 Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Matthew 13: 3, 4</p> <p>3 And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; 4 And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Matthew 13: 18, 19</p> <p>18 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. 19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Mark 4: 3, 4</p> <p>3 Hearken, Behold, there went out a sower to sow. 4 And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mark 4: 14, 15</p> <p>14 The sower soweth the word. 15 And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.</p>

Identifying the Spiritual Meanings of: **the Real Objects:**

1. The **seed** is the Word of God.
(Luke 8:11)
2. The **Sower** “sows” or teaches the Word.
(Mark 4:14)
3. The **wayside** is a place where the Word is heard.
(Mark 4:15)
4. The **wayside hearer** is a person who does **not** understand the Word.
(Matthew 13:19)
5. The **seed** “**trodden down**” is the Word, being mistreated or changed by men.
(Luke 8:5; Jeremiah 12:10; Ezk. 34:18, 19)
6. The **fowls** that devoured the seed are **people** (Prov. 6:5) used by **Satan** to **remove** the Word or **truth** that the person hears from their heart lest they should **believe it** and be saved.

Paraphrase:

A teacher (*sower*) went out to teach (*sow*) the Word (*seed*); and as he taught (*sowed*) the Word, (*seed*) it was heard (*fell*) by people who **did not** understand it (*wayside hearers*). The **Word** (*seed*) was mistreated and changed by men (*trodden down*). Then Satan used **people** (*fowls*) to remove the Word or **truth** from the hearts of those that heard the truth, lest they should **believe it** and be saved. (*fowls devoured the seed*)

BIBLE VERSES	JESUS' EXPLANATION
<p style="text-align: center;">Luke 8: 6</p> <p>6 And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Luke 8: 13</p> <p>13 They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Matthew 13: 5, 6</p> <p>5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:</p> <p>6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Matthew 13: 20, 21</p> <p>20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;</p> <p>21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Mark 4: 5, 6</p> <p>5 And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth:</p> <p>6 But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mark 4: 16, 17</p> <p>16 And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;</p> <p>17 And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.</p>

Identifying the Spiritual Meanings of the Real Objects:

1. The type of **place** where the seed falls represents the *condition* of the **heart** of a person.

good ground--soft, **converted heart** (Luke 8:15)

stony ground--hard, **unconverted heart**
(Ezekiel 11:19)

(no depth of ground-no softness of earth) (Mark 4:5)

2. The **root** of the seed represents the person's relationship with **Jesus**. (Col. 2:6, 7) To have **no root in himself** means to have **no relationship** with **Jesus**.

3. The **moisture** that the seed **lacked** represents the **Holy Spirit**. (Isa. 44:3) The seed **without moisture** represents a person who does **not have** the **Holy Spirit** in his heart.

4. The seed that was **scorched** when the **sun was up** (Matt. 13:6), represents a person who **believes for a while** (Luke 8:13), but when **persecution** or **tribulation** arises because of **the Word** (Matt. 13:21), they fall away (Luke 8:13).

Paraphrase:

The **Word** (*seed*) was also heard (*fell on*) by people with hard unconverted hearts (*stony ground*). These people believed for awhile, but when **persecution** and **tribulation** came because of **the Word** (*sun was up*), they could **not endure** and **fell away** (*scorched*), because they did **not have** the **Holy Spirit** (*lacked moisture*) and they had **no relationship** with Jesus (*no root*).

BIBLE VERSES	JESUS' EXPLANATION
<p>Luke 8: 7 7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it.</p>	<p>Luke 8: 14 14 And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.</p>
<p>Matthew 13: 7 7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:</p>	<p>Matthew 13: 22 22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.</p>
<p>Mark 4: 7 7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit.</p>	<p>Mark 4: 18,19 18 And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, 19 And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.</p>

Identifying the **Spiritual** Meanings of the **Real Objects**:

1. The **thorns** represent the cares, and riches, and pleasures and lusts of other things of the world.
(Luke 8:14; Mark 4:19)
2. These things (thorns) *choke the Word* (Mark 4:19) or "*crowd it out*" so that there is **no time** for **Bible Study** (the Word).
3. As a result the *seed cannot grow* properly and so **no "fruit"** or Christian Virtues (Gal. 5:22) or **Converts** (Prov. 11:30) are produced.

Paraphrase:

The **Word** (*seed*) was also heard (*fell among*) by people who allowed themselves to become so involved with the **cares** and **riches** and **pleasures** and the **lusts of other things** of the world (*thorns*), that they had **no time** for **Bible Study** (*choked the Word*). As a result, these people did not mature in the **Christian Virtues** and they had **no converts** (*fruit*) to give to the Lord.

BIBLE VERSES	JESUS' EXPLANATION
<p>Luke 8: 8 8 And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.</p>	<p>Luke 8: 15 15 But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.</p>
<p>Matthew 13: 8,9 8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. 9 Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.</p>	<p>Matthew 13: 23 23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.</p>
<p>Mark 4: 8,9 8 And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred; 9 And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.</p>	<p>Mark 4: 20 20 And these are they which are sown on good ground; and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.</p>

Identifying the Spiritual Meanings of: **the Real Objects:**

1. The ***good ground*** represents the **soft heart** of a **Converted Christian**. (Luke 8:15; Ezk. 11:19)
2. The **seed received** into the ***good ground*** represents a **Converted person who studies (*hears*)** (Rom. 10:17) and **understands the Word**. (Matt. 13:23)
3. The **fruit produced** represents the **Christian Virtues** and **Converts** won for the Lord. (Gal. 5:22; Prov. 11:30)
4. There will be some **Converted Christians** who produce **more fruit** than **others**, but **all Converted Christians** will be saved.
5. Those who have been **converted** will be **honest** and have **good hearts**. (Luke 8:15) When they **hear** the **Word**, they will ***keep it*** and with **patience** will **mature** in **Christian Virtues** and **win many Converts** for the Lord. (Luke 8:15)

Paraphrase:

The **Word** (*seed*) was also **heard** (*fell on*) by people with **soft, converted hearts** (*good ground*) who **understood** the **Word** and **kept the Word** with **patience**. As a **result**, these people **matured** in the **Christian Virtues** and with **patience** won **many converts** for the Lord. Some won **more converts** than others.

Doctrinal Truths (Taught by **Jesus** in the Parable of "The Sower")

1. The **Word** of **truth** will be heard by everyone.
2. **Jesus** grouped everyone in the world into 4 groups of people.
3. **Group 1:** Consists of people who **hear** the Word but do **not understand** it. They have been **deceived by men** who have "changed the Word" and by people who "**remove** the Word" from their hearts when they have **found** the truth! These people will be **lost**!
4. **Group 2:** Consists of people who have heard the Word and **believed** it, but who have **never allowed** the **Lord** or the **Holy Spirit** to "soften" and **convert** their hard hearts!
When persecution and **tribulation** come **because** of the Word, these people cannot endure because they do **not** have the **Holy Spirit** and they do **not** have a **Relationship with Jesus**. These people will be **lost**!
5. **Group 3:** Consists of people who have allowed themselves to become *so involved* with the **cares, riches, pleasures** and **lusts** of the world, that they have **no time** for the **study** of **God's Word**. As a result, these people will not mature in the **Christian Virtues** and they will have **no converts** to give to the Lord. These people will be **lost**!

(Cont. next page)

6. **Group 4:** Consists of people who have “heard” or studied the **Word** and **understand** it. They have allowed the **Holy Spirit** to come into **their hearts** and they have a **Relationship** with **Jesus**. As a result, their **hearts** are **soft** and they have been *converted*. They are **honest** and when the **Word** tells them to **do something** “they do it”! They have developed **patience** and have acquired the *Virtues* of a *Mature Christian*. By their **life** and by the **Word** they have won **many converts** for the Lord. These people will be **saved**!

7. The main teachings of this parable are as follows:

1. Everyone will **hear** the Word of **truth**.
2. We must **not** allow **Pastors** or teachers who have “changed the Word” to **deceive** us.
3. We must **not** allow **friends** or others to “remove” the **truth** of the Word from us after we have heard it!
4. We must do our very best to **understand** the **Word** for ourselves.
5. We **must** allow the Holy Spirit to come into our heart and *convert us* and give us a **soft heart**.
6. We **must** develop a **relationship** with **Jesus**.
7. We must **expect persecution** and **tribulation** as Christians “because of the Word” but with the help of **Jesus** and the Holy Spirit we can endure!

8. We **must** *make time* for the study of God's **Word**. We must **not** allow the cares, riches, pleasures and lusts of other things to "crowd out" *our time* with the **Word**.
9. We will **not** be able to mature in the Christian virtues, nor will we be able to bring any converts to the Lord **unless** we *spend time* in **Bible Study** (the Word).
10. **Everyone** will be given an opportunity to "hear" or learn the *TRUTH* (Word), but **not everyone** will listen or be **saved**!
11. When we read the **Word** and it tells us to "do something" we need to **do it**!

The Parable of:
“Treasure Hid in a
Field”

**(Searching for Hidden Treasure
in the Bible)**

The Parable of:

“Treasure Hid in a Field”

(Matthew 13:44)

Matthew 13:44 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.”

Comments:

This parable describes someone who has found something of the **greatest value!** He is willing to give up **everything** in order to obtain it! Instead of being “sorrowful” because he has to “give up everything”, the man is filled with **joy** at the thought of what he will **gain!**

Identifying the **Spiritual** meaning of the Parable:

In order to discover the **Spiritual meaning** of this parable, we will first have to discover the **Spiritual meaning** of the real objects used in the parable. The real objects are: *field*, *treasure*, and *man*.

Now we will use the Concordance and compare Scripture.

Comparing Scripture:

Field – first meaning

Acts 1:18 "...this man purchased (redeemed) a **field** with the reward of iniquity..."

Rom. 6:23 "The wages (reward) of sin (iniquity) is **death**..."

Acts 1:19 "That **field** is called ... the **field of blood**."

Matt. 13:38 "The **field** is the world."

Rev. 5:9 "...thou wast slain, and hast redeemed (purchased) us to God by thy **blood** out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation."

Comment:

Thus, the **field** represents the **world** that was redeemed by the **blood** of Jesus.

Field – second meaning

Prov. 2:3-5 Yea, if thou criest after **knowledge**, and liftest up thy voice for **understanding**; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for **hid treasures**; Then shalt thou **understand** the fear of the LORD, and **find** the **knowledge of God**.

Comment:

The only place that we can "search" for the **hid treasure** of the *knowledge of God* is in **God's Word**. Thus, the "field" represents the **Bible** or God's Word.

Conclusions:

The Spiritual "**field**" represents:

1. The **world** (redeemed by the blood of Jesus)
2. The **Bible** or God's Word

Treasure

Exodus 19:5 “Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then **ye** shall be a peculiar **treasure** unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:”

Prov. 2:4,5 “If thou seekest ... as for **hid treasures**; Then shalt thou **understand** ... and **find** the **knowledge of God**.”

Col. 1:26, 27 “Even the **mystery** which hath been **hid** from ages and from generations ... which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory.”

2 Cor. 4:3,4 “But if our **gospel** be **hid**, it is **hid** to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious **gospel of Christ**, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”

Conclusions:

The spiritual “**treasure**” represents:

1. God's **people**
2. The **Gospel** of Christ and the **knowledge of God**

Comment:

The “**treasure**” was **hidden** in the field. It did **not** lie on the surface of the ground, but was **buried** beneath the surface. To obtain the “**treasure**” required the “work” of *digging*. Similarly, to obtain the **knowledge of God** and the understanding of the Gospel, requires the “work” of *digging* or **searching the Scriptures**.

Man

Mark 15:39 “And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this **man** was the Son of God.”

John 9:11 “He answered and said, A **man** that is called **Jesus** made clay, and anointed mine eyes, ...”

Matthew 4:4 “But he answered and said, It is written, **Man** shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

Conclusions:

The Spiritual “**man**” represents:

1. **Jesus**
2. A **person** who “lives by God’s Words” (Christian)

Comments:

It is clear from our study of the **Spiritual meanings** of the real objects in the parable, that *each object* has a double or two **Spiritual meanings**. This implies that there are two distinct meanings for the parable. If we substitute each of the meanings into the parable and the context of the parable supports the meaning, then there are **two meanings** to the parable.

Spiritual Meaning 1 (Paraphrase)

Matthew 13:44 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like *God's people* (treasure) hidden in the *world* (field); which when *Jesus* (man) discovered, with joy *gave up everything he had* (sold all) in heaven and came to this *world* (field) and with his blood, *redeemed* (bought) this *world* (field).

Spiritual Meaning 2 (Paraphrase)

Matthew 13:44 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like the *Gospel of Christ and the knowledge of God* (treasure) that is hidden in *God's Word* (field); which when a *man* discovers, with joy *gives his heart completely to Jesus* (sells all) so that he can *obtain* (buy) salvation and the *understanding and knowledge of God* (treasure) that is hidden in the *Bible* (field).

Summary:

The parable of the "Treasure hid in a field" has been shown to definitely have two **Spiritual meanings**:

1. **Jesus** "giving up everything" in heaven to **redeem us**, His treasure!
2. **Christians** willing to "give up everything" in this world to **obtain a relationship with Jesus** and a **knowledge of His Word**, our treasure!

Matthew 6:19-21

“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your **treasure** is, there will your **heart** be also.”

Comment:

To “give up your **treasure**” upon *earth* and to “lay up your **treasure**” in *heaven*, means to “turn your **heart**” from the things of this world and to “give your **heart**” to Jesus and the things of heaven.

Doctrinal Truth (Taught by **Jesus** in the Parable of “Treasure hid in a field”)

1. There is a “**treasure**” that is worth “giving up everything” to obtain.
2. For Jesus, the “treasure” is a **person** that **loves Him completely!**
3. For human beings, the “treasure” is **Salvation** and **Eternal life** and a **knowledge of God!**
4. In order for Jesus to obtain His “**treasure**” (us) **nothing** was withheld. The **price** of the “treasure” was so high that it required Him to “give up” **heaven** and even to “give up” **His life!**

5. In order for us to obtain our “treasure” (Salvation and a knowledge of God), **nothing** must be withheld. The **price** of “treasure” is so high (it required Jesus’ death) that it requires us to give our **heart completely** to Jesus.
6. In order for us to obtain the **treasure**, “digging” will be required of us. Digging represents the “work” of **searching the Scriptures** to obtain a **knowledge of God** and of the Gospel.
7. When the “treasure” is obtained, it will bring **joy** into our lives!

The Parable of:
“The One Pearl of
Great Price”

(Jesus gave Everything For Us)

The Parable of:

“The One Pearl of Great Price”
(Matthew 13:45, 46)

Matthew 13:45, 46 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.”

Comments:

There are no similar parables from which we could get help in understanding this parable. We will have to look at the real objects in the parable and try to find other Bible texts using these objects in order to learn more about why Jesus used them in this parable.

Identifying the Real Objects:

- Merchant man, pearls, pearl (of great price)

The actions in the parable are:

- Seeking, finding, selling, and buying

Comparing Scripture:

Pearl

Matthew 13:45 “...found one **pearl** of great price.”

Revelation 21:21 “And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: every several* gate was of one **pearl**: and the street of the city [*New Jerusalem*] was pure gold...”

* several – Greek #303 – each

Comments:

These two texts are the only texts in the Bible using the word “**pearl**”. There are other texts using “**pearls**” which we will look at later.

Matthew 13:45 tells us that the **one pearl** was of *great price* or very valuable.

Revelation 21:21 tells us that each of the gates of the Holy City is of **one pearl**.

Conclusions:

1. There is **one Pearl** more valuable than any other.
2. The **only way** to enter into the Holy City is through the gate of **one Pearl**.
3. The use of the word “one” in both texts is significant. The Bible is stressing the point that **this Pearl** is different from all other pearls.
4. The word “gate” or “gates” in the Greek (#4440 – πύλων) means “gate-way” or “door-way”. Thus the word “door” could be used instead of the word “gate”. The addition of the word “way” to the words “door” or “gate” also seems to be significant.
5. Jesus said in John 10:9 “I am the **door**: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved...” And John 10:1 says, “He that entereth not by the door... the same is a thief and a robber.”
6. Jesus said in John 14:6 “I am the **way**, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”
7. If we put what the Bible teaches in John 10:9 and John 14:6 together, Jesus was saying, I am the “**door-way**”. Jesus also made it very plain that the **only way** to “enter in” or be saved was through Him.

Thus the Bible evidence all points to **Jesus** being the **one Pearl of great price!**

Now we will look at the word “**pearls**”.

Pearls

Job 28:12,13 “But where shall **wisdom** be found? and where is the place of understanding? Man knoweth not the price thereof; neither is it found in the land of the living.”

Vs. **18** “No mention shall be made of coral, or of **pearls**: for the price of **wisdom** is above rubies.”

Vs. **20,21** “Whence then cometh **wisdom**? and where is the place of understanding? Seeing it is **hid** from the eyes of all living...”

Vs. **23** “God understandeth the way thereof, and he knoweth the place thereof.”

Matthew 7:6 “Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your **pearls** before swine...”

Matthew 13:45 “...a merchant man, seeking goodly **pearls**”

Conclusion:

“**Pearls**” represent the valuable “*hidden*” **wisdom** or truths of God that are only found by “seeking” or **searching the Scriptures**.

Merchant Man

Matthew 13:45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a **merchant man**, seeking goodly **pearls**.”

When we substitute the Spiritual meaning for “pearls” into this text and paraphrase it, it says:

Paraphrase: ...a **merchant man** seeking the “*hidden wisdom*” or **truths** (goodly pearls) found **only** by **searching the Scriptures**.

Thus, the “**merchant man**” represents a **person** who is searching the Scriptures to find the **truth**!

A “**merchant man**” is someone who “**buys and sells**”.

Prov. 23:23 “**Buy the truth**, and sell it not; also **wisdom**, and instruction, and **understanding**.”

Isaiah 55:1 “...he that hath no money; come ye, **buy**, and eat; yea, come, **buy wine** [doctrine] and **milk** [gospel] without money and without price.”

Conclusion:

The “**merchant man**” who “**buys**” represents someone who “without money” can obtain the **truth** if he will **search the Scriptures**.

Sold (sell) all

Acts 2:44,45 “And all that believed were together, and had all things common; and **sold** their **possessions** and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.”

Matthew 19:16 “And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?”

Vs. 21,22 “Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and **sell that thou hast**, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.”

Vs. 27-29 “Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? And Jesus said unto them, ... **Every one** that hath **forsaken** houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit **everlasting life**.”

Comments:

The “believers” mentioned in Acts 2:44,45 had literally “**sold** their possessions” and had distributed the money to those who had need.

The disciples (like Peter) had also “**forsaken all**” for the Lord. The “rich young man” that came to Jesus had “great possessions” which he was not willing to sell in order to “have **treasure** in heaven”.

Jesus said in **Matthew 6:19-21**,

“Lay not up for yourselves *treasures upon earth*...
But lay up for yourselves *treasures in heaven*... For
where your **treasure** is, there will your **heart** be
also.”

This shows that what Jesus is **really interested in** is the condition of the **heart**, *not* the possessions! **Many** of the Bible characters, like Abraham and Job, were **very rich men**! Yet, their hearts were **totally** focused on the Lord and they put **Him first** in their lives. In other words, they were **converted** in their **hearts** and they had “**no other gods** before God” (Exodus 20:3).

Jesus said in **Matthew 6:33**, “But seek ye first the kingdom of **God**, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

Jesus wants us to put **Him first** in our lives, **above** all our possessions. Then He has promised that He will give us the “*possessions*” that we need. He is not against “*possessions*”, except when they are placed in **the heart** above **Him**!

Conclusion:

Thus, to “**sell all** that you have” **spiritually** means to “**withhold nothing** from the Lord” or to be **willing to do anything He says**! This is what **true Conversion** of the **heart** means!

In the **past** many people have had to leave their homes or loved ones or “*give up*” **something** in order to follow the Lord. **Today** the Lord expects **no less** from us! If we are to be **saved** we must put **Jesus** and “*following Him*” above **all else**! This “price” which we must “pay” is **small indeed** when compared to the **price** that Jesus paid for **us** when he died on the **Cross** to save us!

Phil. 2:5-8 “Let **this mind** be in **you**, which was also in **Christ Jesus**: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of *no reputation*, and took upon him the *form of a servant*, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became **obedient unto death**, even the **death** of the **cross**.”

John 15:13 “Greater love hath no man than this, that a **man** lay down his **life** for his **friends**.”

Summary (meaning 1)

1. The “**one Pearl**” (of great price) represents **Jesus**.
2. The “**pearls**” represent the “hidden” **truths** of God that are found **only** by “seeking” or searching the Scriptures.
3. The “**merchant man**” who is “seeking pearls” represents a **person** who is **searching** the **Scriptures** to find **truth**.
4. The finding of the “**one Pearl**” of Great Price by the “merchant man” represents a **person** “finding” **Jesus as his Savior** as he searches the Scriptures.
5. The **selling** of “**all** that he had” by the “merchantman”, represents a **person** making the *decision* to put **Jesus first** in his life, **withholding nothing** from Him, and being **willing** to “follow Him completely” and **do whatever He says!** This is true conversion.

Comments:

Before we complete our study we need to explore the possibility of this parable having a double significance or a **second** meaning. (Recall that we discovered the parable of the “treasure hid in a field” had a **second** meaning.”

Comparing Scripture

Pearls

Job 28:16-18 “It cannot be valued with the gold of Ophir, with the precious onyx, or the sapphire. The gold and the crystal cannot equal it: and the exchange of it shall not be for **jewels** of fine gold. No mention shall be made of coral, or of **pearls**: for the price of wisdom is above rubies.”

The above text clearly shows that “**pearls**” are considered to be “**jewels**” by the Bible. Let us see what the Bible says that **spiritual “jewels”** represent so that we will know what the **second** meaning for **pearls** is.

Malachi 3:17 “And **they** shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up **my jewels**; and I will spare **them**, as a man spareth his **own son** that serveth him.”

Thus, the Bible says:

1. A **pearl** is a **jewel**. (Job 28:16-18)
2. A **jewel** is a **person**. (Mal. 3:17)
3. A pearl = a jewel = a person

So the **pearls** in the parable represent **people**.

Merchant Man (seeking goodly pearls)

In the parable the “**merchant** man” was seeking “**pearls**”. If we substitute the **Spiritual** meaning of “**pearls**” = **people** into the parable and paraphrase it:

Paraphrase: (Matthew 13:45)

Again the kingdom of heaven is like a **merchant** man, **seeking** goodly *people* (pearls): who when he hath found one person (pearl) of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought *him* (it).

Thus, the **merchant** man was **seeking** goodly* **people**.

* goodly --#2573 καλως – well, fully well.

#2570 καλος – good, honest, virtuous

Seeking (seek)

Luke 19:10 “For the **Son of man** is come to **seek** and to save that which was **lost**.”

Matthew 18:11-14 “For the Son of man is come to save that which was **lost**. How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and **one** of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and **seeketh** that which is gone astray? ... Even so it is **not** the will of your Father which is in heaven, that **one** of these little ones should **perish**.”

Thus, **seeking** is associated with **Jesus** “seeking” to **save** even **one lost person** (sheep)

Summary (meaning 2)

1. The Bible says that a *pearl* is a “**jewel**”.
2. A **spiritual** “*jewel*” represents a **person**.
3. Thus, “*pearls*” or “*jewels*” in the parable represent **people**.
4. The **one** “*pearl*” (of great price) in the parable represents **one person** (greatly loved).
5. The “*merchant man*” represents **Jesus**.
6. The “*merchant man*” **seeking** goodly pearls represents **Jesus** (merchant man) **seeking** to save **people** (goodly pearls).
7. The **one** pearl of **great price** that the “*merchant man*” **sold all** that he had and bought represents the **value of one lost person to Jesus!** He paid a **great price** (He died on the Cross) to **redeem** (buy) even **one person**.

John 15:13 “*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*”

Doctrinal Truth (Taught by **Jesus** in the Parable of
“The one Pearl of Great Price”)

1. There are valuable **truths** (pearls) in the Bible that are found only by **searching the Scriptures**.
2. These valuable **truths** (pearls) are **hidden** from the surface seeker.
3. When a person “searches the Scriptures” and finds **Jesus** as his **Savior**, he has found the “Pearl of Great Price”!
4. When a person makes the **decision** to put **Jesus first in his life**, withholding nothing from Him, and willing to “do whatever **He says**”, he has “**sold all** that he has”! This person is **truly converted**.
5. **People** (pearls) are like valuable jewels to God.
6. Even **one person** is extremely valued by God.
7. **Jesus** came to earth **seeking** to **save** people (goodly jewels) who were **lost** in their **sins**.
8. **Jesus** paid a **Great Price** (died on the cross) to **redeem** (buy) them.
9. **Jesus** “gave up everything” (sold all) to **save people**, because of His **love**.

The Parable Of:

***“The Old and New
Wine Bottles ”***

(The Importance of Conversion)

The Parable of:

“The Old and New Wine Bottles”

(Matthew 9:17)

17 Neither do men put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved.

We will begin our study of this parable by searching the Bible to see if there are any similar parables which might help us understand this parable.

Using Strong's Concordance and the word “*bottles*” we find that in **Mark** 2: 22 and in **Luke** 5: 37-39 there are similar parables.

Mark 2:22 And no man putteth new wine into old bottles, else the new wine doth burst the bottles, and the wine is spilled, and the bottles will be marred: but new wine must be put in new bottles.

This similar parable uses the word “marred” instead of “perish” when referring to the bottles. This may be of some help to us later as we study the parable in detail.

Luke 5:37-39 And no man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish.

38 But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved.

39 No man also having drunk old wine straightway desireth new: for he saith, the old is better.

This similar parable adds the thought that “no one who has drunk old wine immediately (#2112 *Straightway*) desires the new wine because he thinks the old wine is better”.

This thought may help us later as we study the parable in detail.

Comments:

This parable discusses two types of “**wine**” (old and new) and two types of “**bottles**” (old and new) The parable points out that the *type of container* (bottle) that “**wine**” is placed in is **very important** and that the *container* (bottle) **must** be **new** in order to preserve both the “**wine**” and the “**bottle**”.

An **old** “bottle” **cannot contain** the **new** “wine”. A **new** “bottle” **must be obtained** to contain the **new** “wine”.

Now that we understand the Physical part of the parable, it is time to discover the Spiritual meaning of the parable.

We have already identified the Real Objects in the parable as:

bottles, old bottles, new bottles,
wine, old wine, new wine

Now we need to discover their Spiritual meanings by using the *Concordance*, or the *Bible Word Pictures* reference booklet.

We will start by looking up the word “**wine**”.

Discovering the Spiritual Meaning of: "Wine"

Proverbs 20:1

"**Wine** is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is **deceived thereby** is not wise."

Conclusion: "**Wine**" represents something that causes someone to **be deceived**.

Isaiah 28:7

"But they also **have erred** through **wine**, and through strong drink are **out of the way**; the priest and prophet **have erred** through strong drink..."

Conclusion: "**Wine**" represents something that causes someone to err or **leave the right way**.

Deuteronomy 32:33

"Their **wine** is the *poison of dragons*, and the cruel venom of asps."

Revelation 12: 9

"And the great **dragon** was cast out, that old serpent, called **the Devil**, and **Satan** which **deceived** the whole world."

Conclusion: "**Wine**" represents something that **Satan uses to deceive people**.

Habakkuk 2:5

"Yea also, because he **transgresseth** by **wine**."

Conclusion: "**Wine**" represents something that causes a person to **transgress or sin**.

Final Conclusion: "**Old Wine**" or "strong drink" must represent **False Doctrine**.

Since "Old" **Wine** represents False Doctrine then, "New" **Wine** must represent True Doctrine.

Discovering the Spiritual meaning of: “Bottle”

Psalms 119:53

“For I am become like a **bottle**”

Jeremiah 19:10

“Then shalt thou break this **bottle**...

so will I break this **people**.

Conclusion: “**Bottle**” represents a **person**.

Jeremiah 19:1

“Thus saith the Lord, go and get a potters earthen **bottle**...

Jeremiah 18:3, 4, 6

“Then I went down to the potters house... and the vessel he made of clay was **marred**... so he made it again **another vessel**... saith the Lord, behold as the **clay** is in the **potters hand** so are ye in **mine hand**...”

Conclusion: “**New**” **bottle** represents a **person** made “**new**” by the Lord. A “**new**” **bottle** represents a “**converted**” **person**.

The “**marred**” bottle or “**old**” **bottle** must then represent an “**unconverted**” **person**.

Discovering the Spiritual meaning of: “Drink” or “Eat”

Song of Solomon 8:2

“I would lead thee and bring thee into my mother’s house, who would **instruct...** I would cause thee to **drink...**

Jeremiah 15:16

“Thy **words** were found and I did **eat** them: and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart.”

Conclusion: “**Drink**” or “**Eat**” means to receive instruction or **be taught** or **gain knowledge**.

To summarize the Spiritual meaning of the **Real Objects**:

Wine represents **Doctrine**

“Old” **Wine** represents “False” Doctrine

“New” **Wine** represents “True” Doctrine

Bottle represents a **person**

“Old” **Bottle** represents “unconverted” person

“New” **Bottle** represents “converted” person

To “**Drink**” or “**Eat**” means to **be taught** or to **gain knowledge**.

Now we are ready to substitute the Spiritual meaning of these real objects back into the parable and to paraphrase it.

Bible verse: **Luke 5:37-39**

- 37 "And no man putteth **new wine** into **old bottles**; else the **new wine** will burst the **bottles**, and be spilled, and the **bottles** shall perish."
- 38 "But the **new wine** must be put into **new bottles**; and both are preserved."
- 39 "No man also having **drunk old wine** straightway desireth **new**; for he saith, the old is better."

Paraphrase:

- 37 No man can teach true doctrine (new wine) to an unconverted person (old bottle): because the true doctrine (new wine) will be rejected (burst) by the person (bottle) and the person (bottle) will be lost (perish).
- 38 But true doctrine (new wine) must be taught to converted people (new bottles); and both the doctrine and the person will be saved.
- 39 No man having been taught (drunk) false doctrine (old wine) immediately desires true doctrine (new wine): for he thinks the false doctrine (old wine) is better.

Conclusions:

When we first looked at the parable we concluded that the “*type of container*” that the “**wine**” was put in was **very important**. The *container* (“bottle”) **had** to be **new** in order to preserve or retain “**new wine**”.

Now we know that the parable is telling us that a **person** (bottle) **has** to be **converted** (new bottle) in order to accept **True Doctrine** (new wine).

An unconverted person (old bottle) will be satisfied with *false doctrine* (old wine) because he thinks that is better for **him**.

An unconverted person’s life is focused on pleasing himself.

A converted person’s life is focused on pleasing Jesus.

Conversion changes the **focus** of the **life**!

A converted person is willing to *follow Jesus* no matter **what** the consequences to himself!

Following **True Doctrine** will put a person *out of step* with the world and an unconverted person will **not** be willing to do that! The “testing Truths” or True Doctrines are designed by God to determine who **really** loves Him and to “*weed out*” the **unconverted** who love themselves more than God.

Jesus made it very clear that unless a person was **converted** (born again), they could not be part of His kingdom.

John 3:3 “Jesus answered and said unto him, verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of heaven.

This parable brings out *how important conversion* is!

It is **easy** to determine if **you** are **converted**! Are you willing to do anything for Jesus? Are you willing to give up anything He asks you to? Would your job come before Jesus? Is your family more important to you than following Jesus? Is money more important to you than Jesus? Would you be willing to follow Jesus even if it cost you your friends? Remember, a **converted person** is willing to follow Jesus no matter what the consequences to himself! **Jesus** gave up **everything** for **you**!

John 15:13 “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” Are **you** willing to give up everything for **Him**?

Luke 14:33 “So likewise, whoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath he **cannot** be my disciple.”

Remember, that God **LOVES YOU** and **NEVER** asks you to “give up” anything that is not in **your best interest**! The “trinkets” and “tinsel” that this world has to offer **cannot compare** to what **Heaven** and **Eternal Life** can offer!

If you know in your heart that you are **not converted**, but you **want** to be **converted**, you *can be* “**born again**”!

All that God asks is that you be **willing** to put **Him first** in **your life**. Do you **Love Him** enough to be **willing** to **do that**? If you do, then bow your head and pray this simple prayer and God will give you **conversion** of **heart** and you **will be born again**!

Prayer:

Dear Lord, I can't understand how you could ever love me, but I believe that you died for **me** so that I could be forgiven for all my sins. Please forgive me and come into my heart and **change me completely**! Help me to be **willing** to follow you completely. Thank you for hearing my prayer.

In Jesus' precious name, Amen

Doctrinal Truth (Taught by **Jesus** in the Parable of
“The Old and New Wine Bottles”)

1. Spiritual “Wine” represents **Doctrine**.
 Old wine represents **False Doctrine**.
 New wine represents **True Doctrine**.
2. A Spiritual “Bottle” represents a **Person**.
 Old bottle represents an **unconverted person**.
 New bottle represents a **converted person**.
3. The main teaching of the parable is:
 A **person** (bottle) must be **converted** (new bottle)
 before they will accept **True Doctrine** (new wine).
4. An **unconverted** person will **reject** the “**Truth**” (**True Doctrine**) and the person will be lost.
5. An **unconverted** person’s life is focused on pleasing himself.
6. A **converted** person’s life is focused on pleasing Jesus.
7. **Conversion** *changes* the **focus** of the **life**!
8. A **converted** person is willing to *follow Jesus* no matter **what** the consequences to himself!
9. **True Doctrine** is designed by God to determine who **really** loves Him and to “*weed out*” the **unconverted** who love **themselves** more than God.
10. **Jesus** gave up everything for **us** and He expects us to be willing to give up everything for **Him**.
11. **Jesus** will never ask us to “*give up*” anything that is not in our best interest!

12. We must put **Jesus** *before* family, friends, our job, money or anything else!
13. The “tinsel” and “trinkets” of this world and the love of friends or family **cannot** be compared to the **love** of God and the **joys** of **Heaven** and **Eternal Life**.
14. We **must** be **converted** or “born again” in order to be part of the kingdom of heaven.

The Parable Of:

***“The Grain of
Mustard Seed”***

(The Importance of **Faith** and How to Obtain it)

The Parable of:

"The Grain of Mustard Seed"

(Matthew 13:31, 32)

Matthew 13:31, 32

31 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field:

32 Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.

Comments:

Jesus begins this parable by comparing the "kingdom of heaven" to being like a mustard seed. A comparison of Bible texts using the words "*kingdom of heaven*" shows that this phrase represents the "**Church**". In this instance then, Jesus is comparing the "Church" (kingdom of heaven) to being like a grain of mustard seed.

In the parable the mustard seed is described as being the "*least*" of all seeds. In other words the mustard seed is very small. The parable then describes how when the mustard seed is grown it becomes the "*greatest*" of all herbs and becomes a tree.

When we put what we have learned together we see that Jesus is saying:

The **Church** (kingdom of heaven) is like a mustard seed. In the beginning it will be very small (least), but it will grow and become the **greatest** of all at the last.

In this parable a **man** sowed the mustard seed in his field. In the parable of the “tares among the wheat” (Matthew 13:24-30; 30-43) **Jesus** or the “son of man” is the one who **sowed** the seed (verse 37). The **field** represents the **world** (verse 38).

When we put what we have learned from the Bible together, we see that the parable tells us that it was **Jesus** (man) who “planted” or established (sowed) the **Church** (mustard seed) in the world (field).

Comparison of Scripture:

When we use the Concordance to look up the word “*mustard*”, we discover that there are five texts in the Bible where this word is found. Three texts (Matt.13:31; Mark 4:31; Luke 13:19) describe the mustard seed as representing the “kingdom of heaven” or the **Church**. Two texts (Matt. 17:20, Luke 17:6) describe the mustard seed as representing **Faith**. We will now look at this second meaning as used in the parable.

Matthew 17:20 And Jesus said unto them, because of your **faith** as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

Luke 17:6 And the Lord said, If ye had **faith** as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamore tree, be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.

These two texts make it plain that Jesus wanted us to also associate the “mustard seed” with **Faith**. It appears then, that Jesus wanted us to see the connection between the mustard seed representing both the **Church** (kingdom of heaven) and our **Faith**.

We will look at the parable again and this time we will use the second meaning of “*mustard seed*” as **Faith**.

Matthew 13:31 “Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field:
32 Which indeed is the *least* of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the *greatest* among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.”

We will paraphrase the text by substituting the meaning of *mustard seed* as “**Faith**”.

Paraphrase:

The kingdom of heaven is like a tiny speck of **Faith** (mustard seed), which **Jesus** (man) took and placed (sowed) in the world (field). Although it is very small (least) at first, later when it has **grown**, it will be the greatest of all.

When we examine what we have learned we see several things:

1. At the start our Faith will be very small.
2. Our Faith can increase or **grow**.
3. Jesus is the one who gives us **Faith**.
4. The Church needs *more Faith* (Matt. 17:20)
5. As our Faith grows, the **Church** will grow.
6. **Nothing** will be **impossible** for us if we have **Faith**!

Now, we need to learn more about the word “Faith”. We will begin by discovering the *definition* of “**Faith**” by using Strong’s Concordance:

(Greek)

If ye have faith as a ... Matt. 17:20 ... #4102 ... Pistis

Conviction of religious truth, reliance upon Christ for Salvation, Constancy in profession, assurance, belief, believe, faith, fidelity.

Thus, "Faith" is **belief in Christ** and **reliance** upon Him for Salvation!

Now, let us learn more about "**Faith**" by Comparing Scripture.

Romans 12:3, 6

3...God hath dealt to **every** ↔
man the measure of faith.

6...according to the
proportion of faith;

Everyone has been
given **some** amount
of **faith**. Some have
been given **more** than
others. Each one is
responsible for the
amount given him.

Hebrews 12:2

2 Looking unto **Jesus** the ↔
author and finisher of our
faith;....

Jesus gave us our
faith to begin with
and He will help us to
increase our faith.

Hebrews 11:6

6 But without faith it is
impossible to please him;
for he that cometh to God
must believe that he is,
and that he is a rewarder
of them that diligently
seek him.

↔ It is impossible to
please God without
faith!

Hebrews 11:1

1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

If we can see what we desire we don't need faith. **Faith** helps us to obtain what is **not visible**.

II Corinthians 5:7

7 For we walk by faith, not by sight:

Romans 10:17

17 So then **faith** cometh by hearing, and hearing by the **Word of God**.

Faith is **increased** as we study the Word of God or the Bible.

II Corinthians 10:15

15but having hope, when your **faith** is **increased** ...

As our Faith increases it gives us hope.

James 1:6, 7

6 But let him **ask in faith, nothing wavering**. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.
7 For let that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord.

We are **not to doubt** when we ask for things but are to have **faith** that we **will** receive them.

James 1:3

3 Knowing this, that the **trying** of your **faith** worketh patience. ↔

Sometimes the things we ask for are not received right away. This helps us to develop patience.

I Peter 1:7

7 That the **trial** of your **faith**, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be **tried with fire**, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: ↔

Sometimes we have hard trials and our **faith** is **tested** by God.

I Peter 1:9

9 Receiving the **end** of your **faith**, even the **salvation** of your souls. ↔

Remember that the end result of having **faith** is that God will save you!

Ephesians 2:8

8 For by grace are ye **saved** through **faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the **gift** of God: ↔

Faith is a **gift** from God.

Romans 4:29, 30

29 Is he the God of the **Jews only**? is he not also of the **Gentiles also**: ↔
30 Seeing it is **one God**, which shall justify the circumcision by **faith**, and uncircumcision through **faith**.

Everyone whether they are Jews or Gentiles are saved one way; by **faith**.

Jude 3

3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the **common salvation**, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the **faith** which was once delivered unto the saints.

↔ There is a **common Salvation** for everyone but some have perverted the faith. We are to earnestly "contend" or "struggle" until we discover the **truth** or **faith** that was once given to God's people.

I Timothy 6:12

12 **Fight** the **good fight** of **faith**, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

II Timothy 4:7, 8

7 I have **fought** a **good fight**, I have finished my course, I have kept the **faith**:

8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

↔

We have to struggle or **fight** against the devil who wants to prevent us from having faith.

I John 5:4

4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the **victory that overcometh the world**, even **our faith**. ↔ Our **faith** will give us the **victory** over the devil and the world.

Romans 4:22, 25

22 Even the righteousness of God which is by **faith** of Jesus Christ unto all and upon **all them** that **believe**: for there is no difference:
25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through **faith** ↔ When we believe and have **faith** in Jesus and His **blood**, His righteousness will be given to **us** and our sins will be forgiven!
in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

Revelation 14:12

12 Here is the **patience** of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the **faith** of **Jesus**. ↔ God's people will overcome as they patiently keep the commandments of God and have **faith** in Jesus.

Summary:

In the parable Jesus predicts that the **Church** will begin as the *smallest* of "all kingdoms" but will continue to grow until it becomes *greater* than any earthly kingdom. The second meaning of the parable applies to our **Faith**. Jesus describes how our **Faith** starts out very small, yet it

has the possibility of becoming great!

Jesus often chided people for their **lack** of faith: “O ye of little faith”. As we compared the Scriptures to discover **more** about “faith”, we learned why Jesus took the time to teach a parable about faith. We discovered that “without faith” it is impossible to please God”, and that it is “our faith” that will give us the victory to overcome the Devil and the world. Finally, we learned that our **faith grows** or **increases** as we **study the Bible**.

Doctrinal Truth (Taught by **Jesus** in the Parable of “The Grain of Mustard Seed”)

1. **Jesus** is the one who “planted” or established the **Church**.
2. Jesus said that in the beginning the **Church** would be very **small**, but it would *grow* until it became great.
3. Jesus also said that our “**faith**” would be very **small** in the beginning, but our faith would *grow* until it too became great.
4. It is plain that Jesus has connected the *growth* of our “**faith**” with the *growth* of the “**Church**”. As our **faith** grows so will the **Church** grow.
5. One definition of “**faith**” is **belief** in Christ and **reliance** upon **Him** for Salvation.
6. **Jesus** has given everyone the **gift** of some faith.
7. It is up to **us** to see that our faith **increases**.

8. Our **faith increases** as we *study the Bible* or “Word of God”.
9. It will be impossible to please God without faith.
10. **Faith** helps us to “**see**” in our mind things that are **not visible** to the eye.
11. Faith is the opposite of **doubt** or unbelief.
12. When we ask God for something we are to have **faith** to believe that He **will** give it to us. If we doubt we will **not** receive anything.
13. If we do **not** receive the things we ask for right away, we are to have patience. This “*testing*” of our **faith** develops patience.
14. Everyone will be saved the same way — by **faith**.
15. Our **faith** will give us the victory over the Devil and the world.
16. When we believe and have **faith** in Jesus and His blood shed for us, *His Righteousness* will be given to **us** and our sins will be forgiven.
17. God’s people will *overcome* as they patiently keep the commandments of God and have **faith** in **Jesus**.

The Parable Of:

***“Choosing The Broad
Or Narrow Way”***

(Many People are in the Wrong Church)

The Parable of:

“Choosing The **Broad Or Narrow Way**”

Matthew 7: 13,14

13 “Enter ye in at the **strait** gate: for wide is the gate, and **broad** is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

14 Because strait is the gate, and **narrow** is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it”.

We will use the Concordance to determine the meaning of the word “**strait**”.

Enter ye in at the **strait** gate...Matthew 7:13.... #4728

#4728 στενός stēnōs *strait*

...**narrow** (because of obstacles standing close by)

Thus, the word “**strait**” means **narrow**

Paraphrase: (1) Enter in at the **narrow** gate: because the **wide** gate and the **broad** way leads to **destruction** and there will be **many** that will go through the **wide** gate. The **narrow** gate leads to **life** and only a **few** will **find** it.

Paraphrase (2) Most people will be **lost**! Only a **few** people will be **saved**!! There is a way that leads to life and there is another way that leads to **destruction**! The **way** that leads to **life** is **not easy to find** and only a **few** find it. The **way** that leads to **destruction** is **easy to find**, and **almost everyone** is traveling on it.

Comments and Questions

1. There must be a **reason** that **most people** will choose the “**broad**” way, because no one wants to be **destroyed**!
2. The “**narrow**” way must require a **search** in order to “**find**” it, because the text says only a few “**find**” “it”.
3. “**Destruction**” is the reward for those who choose the “**broad**” way or that go through the “**wide**” gate.
“**Life**” is the reward for those that choose the “**narrow**” way or that go through the “**narrow**” gate.
4. What do the words “**destruction**” and “**life**” mean literally?
5. What do the two different “**gates**” represent?
6. What do the two different “**ways**” represent?
7. Is this parable speaking about people **in general** or about people who are **church members**?

LIFE Matt. 7:14....#2222

#2222 ζωή zōē *life* from #2198 *to live*

Thus, the word “**life**” in the text means to literally **live**.

Destruction Matt. 7:13....#684

#684 ἀπώλεια apōlēia *destruction*, die, from #622

#622 ἀπόλλυμι apōllumi *to destroy fully*

Thus, the word “**destruction**” used in the text means to literally “**die**”, and be “**fully destroyed**”.

Comparing "Scripture With Scripture"

Luke 13:23-24

23 Then said one unto him, Lord

are there **few** that **be saved**?

24 Strive to enter in at the

strait gate: for **many**, I say
unto you, will **seek to enter in**,
and **shall not be able**.

↔

Many

will

seek to enter in,
and
shall not be able.

Matthew 7:21-23

21 **Not everyone** that **saith**

unto me, **Lord, Lord**, shall

enter into the kingdom of
heaven: but he that **doeth** the
will of my father which is in
heaven.

↔

Only those doing
the will of God
will be **saved**.

22 **Many will say** to me in that
day, **Lord, Lord**, have we not
prophesied in thy name? and in
thy name cast out devils?
and in thy name done many
wonderful works?

↔

Many "Christians"
who have:
-----**Prophesied**
in the name of Jesus
-----**Cast out devils**
in the name of Jesus
-----**Done many**
wonderful works
in the name of Jesus

23 And then will I profess unto
them, **I never knew you**, depart
from me, **ye that work iniquity**.

Luke 13:26-27

26 Then shall, ye begin to say,
We have eaten and drunk in thy
presence, and **thou hast taught**
in our streets.

↔

---**Had Communion**
at Church
---**Heard the Truth**

27 But he shall say, I tell you,
I know you not whence ye are;
depart from me, all **ye workers**
of **iniquity**.

↔

Many
Will be Lost
while thinking
they are **Saved!**

Since the “**many**” appear to be “**Christians**” and yet they will be **lost**, then the “**broad way**” and the “**wide gate**” that the “**many**” go through must represent the **doors of False Churches** that people enter and **are deceived** by (false prophets or false teachers).

The entire parable seems to be addressing **only** those who “**claim to be Christians**”!(prophesying in the name of Jesus and casting out devils) Matthew 7:22

If the “**many**” spoken of were those who did not claim to be Christians or heathen etc., then there should have been some plain description of them and there is **none** !

Therefore the “**many**” represent a **lot of “Christians”** who will be **lost** !!

Since the “**many**” who will be **lost** appear to be **surprised** when the Lord does **not** “know them”, they must have been “**Christians**” who were **deceived** by their **Religious teachers**. They “thought” that they were “Christians”, (prophesied, cast out devils, wonderful works) and yet were **not**, according to the Words of Jesus. They were “workers of iniquity” or sinners.

The **warning** that Jesus gives in the parable about “false prophets” in sheeps clothing who are inwardly like “ravening wolves” seems to have been **missed** by them.
(see next page)

They accepted the **teachings** of their Religious Leaders as **truth** when it was **error**. Too late they discover that “**all Churches**” do **not** lead to heaven but rather the “**way**” is **narrow** and the true Church or Church that teaches **truth** must be **sought for**.

Matthew 7:15-17

15 **Beware** of **false prophets**, which come to you in sheeps clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

16 Ye shall **know them** by **their fruits**...

17 ...every **good tree** bringeth forth **good fruit**; but a *corrupt tree* bringeth forth *evil fruit*.

Watch out for **teachers** who will try to **deceive you** !

Inspect their fruit !

Outwardly, the Religious teachers or “prophets” appeared to be “**Genuine Christians**” (sheeps clothing), but in reality they were **impostors** and were instead being used by Satan (ravening wolves) to **destroy** God’s people (sheep) and **prevent them** from learning **truth**. (*false prophets teach false things*).

These “**deceived Christians**” that will be **lost** will **not** have an excuse, because Jesus has clearly told them *how to tell the difference* between a teacher of **truth** and a **false teacher**!

The “**test**” of the **teacher** is to examine their “**fruit**”.
 (“Ye shall know them by their **fruits**”) Matthew 7:16-20

It is **not enough** evidently to look on the “outward appearance” and see a “distinguished” looking man or a “kind person” or even a “good speaker”.

Even having a “**Phd. in Religion**” is **not enough**, as the “**Pharisees**” (Drs. of the law) in Jesus’ day have already shown us by their treatment of Jesus!

Let’s “Compare Scripture with Scripture” and see what the Bible says about this “**Fruit**” we are to look for.

Fruit

Luke 6:43,45,46

43 For a **good tree** bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

45 A **good man** out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is **good**; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

46 And why call ye me, **Lord, Lord**, and **do not** the things which I say?

A "**good**" man will produce "**good**" fruit

An "**evil**" man with "*corrupt*" fruit will **not do** the things the **Lord** says to do.

Matthew 7:19-21

19 Every tree that bringeth not forth **good fruit** is hewn down and cast into the fire.

20 Wherefore by their **fruits** ye shall **know them**.

21 Not every one that saith unto me, **Lord, Lord**, shall enter into the Kingdom of heaven; but **he that doeth the will of my Father** which is in heaven.

If a man's "**fruit**" is "**good**" he will **do** the will of God

Thus, the **Bible** tells us to "**watchout**" for **religious teachers** who will **try to deceive us**. In order to tell a "**good teacher**" from a "**false teacher**", the **Bible** tells us that a "**good teacher**" will **DO** the things that the **Lord** says to **do**, while a "**false teacher**" will **not do** the things the **Lord** says to **do**.

Thus, the "**fruit**" of the "**teacher**" is related to **their obedience or disobedience** to God!

John 15:4,5,10

4 **Abide** in **me**, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear **fruit** of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye **abide** in **me**.

5 ...He that **abideth** in **me**, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much **fruit**: for without me ye can do nothing.

10 If ye **keep** my **commandments**, ye **shall abide** in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and **abide** in his love.

I John 3:6,7,10

6 Whosoever **abideth** in him **sinneth not**: whoso sinneth hath not seen him, **neither known him**.

7 Little children, let no **man deceive** you: ...

10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: **whosoever doeth not righteousness** is **not** of God...

Ephesians 5:5,6,9

5 For this ye know, that **no** whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any **inheritance** in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

6 Let no **man deceive** you with vain words: for **because of these things** cometh the **wrath** of God upon the **children of disobedience**.

9 For the **Fruit of the Spirit** is in all goodness and righteousness and truth.

Fruit (cont.)

We must "**abide**" in **Christ** in order to bear "**fruit**".

Those "**abiding**" in Christ will **keep His Commandments** and will "**abide**" in His love.

Those "**abiding**" in Christ will **not** be **willfully sinning**. **Don't** let any **man deceive** you on this.

God's children will be doing **righteousness**.

Those who **sin willfully** will **not** be in **heaven!** **Don't** let any **man deceive** you on this.

The "**Fruit**" of the **Holy Spirit** is **righteousness**, not sinfulness !

I John 2:4,6

4 **He that saith, I know him,**and
keepeth **not** *his commandments*,
is a **liar**, and the **truth** is **not** in him.

6 **He that saith** he **abideth in him**
ought **himself** also to walk,
even as he walked.

If we say
“**we know the Lord**”
and yet **don’t** keep
His Commandments
we are **liars**

John 14:15,21

15 **If ye love me,**
keep my commandments.

21 He that hath my commandments,
and *keepeth them*,

he it is that **loveth me**:

and he that loveth me
shall be loved of my Father,
and **I will love him**, and
will manifest myself to him.

The
“**TEST**”
of
LOVE

John 15:10

If ye keep my commandments,
ye shall **abide** in my love;even as
I have kept my Father’s commandments,
and **abide** in his love.

The Lord
“**knows**”
those that
“*really*”
Love Him

("FRUIT")

Conclusions: (from comparison of Scripture)

1. A person **cannot** bear good **"fruit"** unless they **"abide"** in Jesus Christ. (John 15:4,5)
2. In order to **"abide"** in Christ and His love the person must be a **"commandment keeper"**.
(John 15:10; I John 3:6,4,24)
3. The **distinction between** those who are the **"children of God"** and the **"children of the devil"** is **"made manifest"** or made **plain** by whether they **"do righteousness"** or **not**. (I John 3:10)
4. Those entering into the kingdom of heaven will be those who **"do the will of God"**.
(Matt. 7:21; Luke 6:46-49; II Peter 1:4-11)
5. Those **"abiding"** in Christ and **"keeping His Commandments"** will be given the **Holy Spirit**.
(I John 3:22-24)
6. Those having the **Holy Spirit** will be **"bringing forth"** the **"fruit"** of the **Spirit** which is: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, faith, meekness, temperance, goodness, righteousness, and truth, proving what is acceptable to the Lord.
(Gal. 5:22,23; Eph. 5:9,10)

7. Those who do **not** “**abide**” in Christ will be “**commandment breakers**” (I John 2:4,6) and they will **not** be **doing** the things the Lord said to do. (Luke 6:46)

Their “**fruit**” or “works of the flesh” will be these: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft,... wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, whoremonger, covetousness.

(Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:5-7)

They are called the “children of **disobedience**” (Eph.5:6) or “workers of **iniquity**” (Matt. 7:21-23)

Now let’s compare Scripture to discover the meaning of the “**gates**” in the Parable.

GATE (Physical)

The parable mentions **two** “**gates**”; a “**narrow**” gate” and a “**broad** gate”. When we think of a “**gate**” we normally think of the entrance into a **city**.

1. The first text in the Bible that mentions a gate is Gen. 19:1. The **gate** of the **wicked city Sodom**.

2. The last text in the Bible that mentions a gate is Rev.21:21. The **gate** of the **Holy City, New Jerusalem**.

3. Those that entered the **gate** of **Sodom** and **stayed there**, received the reward of **destruction**. (Luke 17:29)

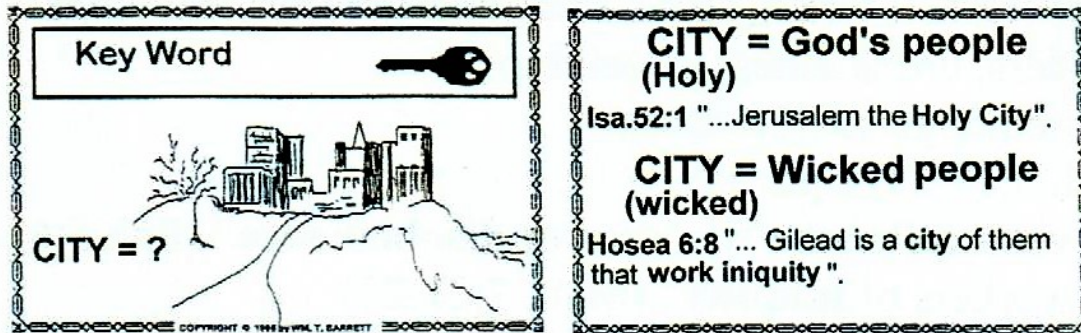
4. Those that enter the **gate** of the **New Jerusalem** will **stay there**, and receive the reward of **eternal life**. (Rev. 21:1,2; Rev. 22:14,15)

GATE (Spiritual)

A “**city**” represents a group of people. The kind of **city**, represents the kind of **people**

Holy City ↔ **God’s people or God’s Church**

Wicked City ↔ **Deceived people or False Church**



Thus, the “**gate**” of the city would represent **entrance** into either: **God’s Church** or a **False Church**.

“**narrow**” **gate** ↔ entering **God’s Church**

“**broad**” **gate** ↔ entering a **False Church**

Genesis 28:17,19

17 And he was afraid,
and said, How dreadful
is this place! This is
none other but the

house of God, and this **gate** = **house of God**
is the **gate of heaven**. (of heaven) (Church)

19 And he called the
name of that **place**

***Beth-el**:

* #1008 **house of God**

Jeremiah 7:2

2 Stand in the **gate**
of the **Lord's house**,
and proclaim there
this word, and say,

Hear the word of	gate	=	place to
the Lord, all ye of	of the		worship
Judah, that enter in	(Lord's house)		the Lord
at these gates to			(Church)
worship the Lord.			

Thus, the “**gate**” of **heaven**” represents the
“**narrow gate**” or **true Church of God**.

Now let's look at the;

“**Broad gate**” or “**False Church**”

Jeremiah 7:4

4 Trust ye not in
lying words, saying,
The **temple** of the Lord,
The **temple** of the Lord,
The **temple** of the Lord,
are these.

False teachers **lie** and lead
the people to believe that
belonging to the Church
will **save** them
Church of the Lord
Church of the Lord
Church of the Lord

Continued

Jeremiah 7:8-11, 14-15

8 Behold, ye trust in **lying words**, that cannot profit.

9 Will ye **steal, murder**, and commit **adultery**, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Bā'-āl, and walk after other gods whom ye know not;

10 And come and stand before me in this **house**, which is **called by my name**, and say, We are ***delivered to do all these abominations?**

11 Is this **house**, which is **called by my name**, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, even I have seen it, saith the Lord.

*** #5337 saved**

14 Therefore will I do unto *this* **house**, which is **called by my name**, wherein ye **trust**, and unto the place which I gave to you and to your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh.

15 And I will **cast you out** of my sight, as I have cast out all your brethren, even the whole seed of Ē'-phrā-īm.

↔ **False teachers lie**

The **false** teachers tell the people that once they join the **Church** then they are ***saved** and **not** “under the 10 commandment law”, and are at liberty to do whatever they want. This is the “**house**” or **Church** called by the **name of Christ**.

(Christian Church)

The Lord will reject the “**Christian Church**” and those calling themselves “**Christians**” who **break His 10 commandments**.

This is the “**broad**” gate or **False Church** that leads to **destruction**.

From: "The Living Bible"

II Peter 2:12,19-22

"But **false teachers** are fools ---no better than animals. **They do whatever they feel like**;... "You aren't saved by being good," they say, "so you might as well be bad. Do what you like, **be free.**"

But these very **teachers** who offer this "**freedom**" **from law** are themselves slaves to sin and destruction. For a man is a slave to whatever controls him. And when a person has escaped from the wicked way of the world by learning about our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and then gets tangled up with sin and becomes its slave again, he is worse off than he was before. It would be better if he had never known about Christ at all than to learn of him and then afterwards turn his back on the holy commandments that were given to him. There is an old saying that "A dog comes back to what he has vomited and a pig is washed only to come back and wallow in the mud again." That is the way it is with those who turn again to their sin.

From: "The Living Bible"

Jude 3

Dearly loved friends , I have been planning to write you some thoughts about the salvation God has given us, but now I find I must write of something else instead, urging you to stoutly defend the truth which God gave, once for all, to his people to keep without change through the years. I say this because some **godless teachers** have wormed their way in among you, saying that **after we become Christians** we can **do just as we like** without fear of God's punishment. The fate of such people was written long ago, for they have turned against our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

The New Covenant

Hebrews 10: 16

16 This is the **covenant** that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put **my laws** into **their hearts**, and in **their minds** will I **write them**.

It would not make sense for God to "**write His Law**" in our **hearts** and **minds** and then tell us to "**do away**" with **His Law !!**

Hebrews 10:26-29

26 For **if we sin wilfully** after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth **no more sacrifice for sins,**

27 But a certain fearful looking for of **judgment and firey indignation,** which shall devour the adversaries.

28 He that **despised Moses law died without mercy**

under two or three witnesses:

29 Of how much **sorer punishment,**

suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath **trodden under foot the Son of God,** and hath counted the **blood of the covenant,** wherewith he was sanctified, an **unholy thing,** and hath done ***despite** unto the Spirit of **grace?**

If we **sin wilfully** after we have **learned the truth,** the sacrifice of **Jesus's blood** will **no longer cover our sins.**

We can expect the **Judgment and firey indignation** of God without mercy.

By **wilfully sinning** after knowing the truth, we are **insulting God and Jesus** and the **Holy Spirit** by **"treading under our feet"** the **Blood** of Jesus that was shed **for our sins** that broke **God's covenant** or **Law of 10 commandments.**

*The word **"despite"** #1796 means **"to insult"**.

WAY

The Parable said that **“few” find** the narrow **“way”**.
The Bible gives us **reasons why “few” find it!**

II Peter 2:1-2

1 But there were
false prophets also among
the people, even as there
shall be **false teachers** among
you, who privily shall bring
in damnable heresies, even
denying the Lord that
bought them, and bring upon
themselves swift destruction.

**False teachers
deceive the “many”**

2 And **many** shall follow their
***pernicious** ways; by reason
of whom the **way of truth**
shall be **evil spoken of**.

*** #684 destructive**

Comment:

When people discover the **“way” of truth**,
(**narrow way**), their **false teachers “speak evil”** or say
bad things about those teaching the truth and
turn them away from finding and following the
truth or **“narrow” way!**

They are led to believe that such a small group (**“few”**)
could not have the **truth (“narrow” way)**, but God says
“Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil.” Ex. 23:2
or to paraphrase the text:

You shall **not follow** the **“many”** to **break** God’s Law.

WAY (cont.)

John 14: 5,6

5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord,
we know not whither thou goest;
and how can we **know** the **way**?

6 **Jesus saith** unto him, **I am** the
way, the truth and the life: no
man cometh unto the Father, but
by me.

Anyone can **know**
the "**way**"
by following
Jesus.

Proverbs 12: 28

28 In the **way** of righteousness
is **life**; and in the pathway
thereof there is no death.

The "**way**" of
righteousness
leads to **life**.

Proverbs 10:17

17 He is in the **way** of **life**
that keepeth instruction: but
he that refuseth reproof erreth.

When we **keep instruction**
and are willing to receive
correction, we are in the
"**way**" of **life**.

Acts 24:14

14 But this I confess unto
thee, that after the **way**
which they call **heresy**,
so worship I the God of
my fathers, believing all
things which are written
in the **law** and
in the **prophets**.

The "**way**" will be called
heresy but it will be
the truth and it consists of
"**believing** all things
that are written" in the
law (10 Commandments)
and in the **prophets** (the rest
of the Bible).

WAY (cont.)

Proverbs 14:12

12 There is a **way** which **seemeth** right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of **death**.

There is another "**way**" which "**seems right**" but it is the **wrong way** and leads to **death**(this is the **broad "way"** which leads to destruction). Notice that this "**way**" "**seems right**"!! Apparently most of the Christian world, the "**many**" will be **fooled** by Satan and his **false teachers** into taking this "**way**".

Isaiah 3:12

12 As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O **my people** **they** which **lead thee** **cause thee to err**, and **destroy the way** of thy paths.

It is their **Religious Leaders** that cause **God's People** to err and take the **wrong "way"**. Their **Pastors and Teachers** "**destroy**" the **right "way"**!

Malachi 2:7-9

7 For the **priest's lips** should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: For he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts.

8 But ye are **departed out of the way**: ye have caused **many** to stumble at the **law**; ye have corrupted the **covenant** of Levi, saith the Lord of hosts.

9 Therefore have I also made you contemptible and base before all the people, according as ye have **not kept my ways**, but been **partial** in the **law**.

The **Priests and Pastors** have "**departed** out of the "**way**" or **left the truth** of God.

They have **caused "many"** (broadway) to be "**partial**" in the **Law** or in other words, they have **prevented them** from "**keeping all the law**". Evidently there is a **part** of the **Ten Commandments** that the **Priests and Pastors do not want to keep** and so tell **the people** that **they don't** have to keep **that part** of the **Law** either.

Doctrinal Truth (Taught by **Jesus** in the Parable of "Choosing the Broad or Narrow Way")

1. Only a **"few"** will receive eternal **life**.
2. **"Many"** people will **think** that they are going to receive eternal life, but they will be **destroyed** instead.
3. It is **false teachers** that cause the **"many"** to be **destroyed**.
4. The **false** teachers **"appear"** to be **"Genuine Christians"** (sheeps clothing) but they are **not**.
5. The Lord advises us to **"test"** our teachers by observing their **"fruit"**, instead of looking at the **"outward appearance"** (sheeps clothing)
6. Jesus said that no one could produce **"good fruit"** unless they **"abide in Him"**. He also said that **if** they would **"keep His Commandments"** they would **"abide in His love"**.
7. When a person **"abides in Jesus"** and **"keeps His Commandments"**, they **will** be given the **Holy Spirit**, which is the **good "fruit"** producer.
(I John 3:24; Gal.5:22,23; Eph.5:5-7)
8. Since the **"broad way"** Christians **"thought"** that they **were "abiding in Jesus"** but were **not** because Jesus said He **"never knew them"**, it is **very important** to be able to **know with certainty** that you are **"abiding" in Jesus!**

9. The “*test*” for **knowing with certainty** that you are “**abiding**” in **Jesus** is a very simple one. Do you *keep the Commandments of God*?

If you do, then you may **know with certainty** that you are “**abiding**” in **Jesus** and He is abiding in you!

If you **don’t**, then you are **not** “abiding in Jesus” and He is **not** “**abiding in you**”.

John 15:10

10 If ye *keep my commandments*, ye shall **abide in my love**;...

I John 3: 6,24

6 Whosoever **abideth in him** sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

24 And he that *keepeth his commandments* dwelleth **in him**, and **he in him**. And hereby **we know** that **he abideth in us**, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

10. The “**fruit**” of a “**teacher**” or anyone cannot be **good** fruit, unless they are “**keeping** the commandments of God,” because **unless they are**, they **cannot** be “**abiding in Jesus**” and so cannot produce “**good** fruit”!

11. The “**test**” of a **false teacher** will **show** that they do **not** “keep the commandments” of God. Remember it is not necessary that they “**break them all**”.

They can keep **9 of them** and “**look**” like a “**Genuine Christian**” (sheeps clothing) but in God’s sight they are “**not**” “**abiding in Him**” and He does **not know them**!

They only have to break **one** of them “**wilfully**” and then they are being “**partial in the law**”.(Malachi 2:7-9)

James 2:10-12

10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet **offend in one point**, he is **guilty of all**.

12. Since the “**test**” of “**abiding** in Jesus” and determining “**false** teachers” centers on “**keeping** the 10 Commandments”, it would be **wise** to **consider each of the Commandments individually** and to determine if **any** of them are **being broken wilfully** by the “**teacher**” whose “**fruit**” you are inspecting. Remember, that the Lord is not asking you to “**judge**” the heart and secret sins, but only **outward, wilful breaking** of **any** of the 10 Commandments.

The Ten Commandments

Exodus 20:1-17

- 1 And God spake all these words, saying,
- 2 I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.
- [1] 3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
- [2] 4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:
- 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and forth generations of them that hate me;
- 6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.
- [3] 7 Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
- [4] 8 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- 9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

10 But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:

11 For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

[5] 12 Honour thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

[6] 13 Thou shalt not kill.

[7] 14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

[8] 15 Thou shalt not steal.

[9] 16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor

[10] 17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbors wife nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.

13 **False** teachers will “**speak evil**” about those who are **True Christians** and who are “**abiding** in Jesus” and “**keeping** His Commandments”. Because there will be “**few**” in number on the “**narrow way**”, **false** teachers will claim they cannot have the “truth.”

14 **False** teachers will turn the “**grace**” of God into “**lasciviousness**” by telling people that once they become Christians they no longer have to keep the Law of God. This is why there is so much **sin** in the **Church** and why the world cannot tell a “**Christian**” from a “**non Christian**”!

15. The right way or “**narrow way**” is found by “**believing all things** in the **Law** and in the **prophets**, or in other words keeping **all the Commandments** and believing **all the Bible**.

16. The “**many**” on the “**broad way**” (workers of iniquity), will receive “**destruction**” as their **reward**. They will be **destroyed** by **fire** and **brimstone** from heaven, which will “**burn them up**” and leave nothing but **ashes**.

17. The “**few**” on the “**narrow way**” (Commandment keepers), will receive eternal “**life**” as their **reward**.

18. The “**many**” on the “**broad way**” who will be **destroyed** and the “**few**” on the “**narrow way**” who will receive Eternal **Life** in this parable were **both claiming to be Christians** or were **Church Members!!**

Revelation 22:14-16

14 Blessed are they that **do his commandments**, that they may have right to the tree of **life**, and may **enter in** through the **gates** into the **city**.

15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and **murderers**, and **idolaters**, and whosoever loveth and maketh a **lie**.

16 **I, Jesus** have sent mine angel to **testify** unto you these things **in the Churches**. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

The Parable of:

The

“Two Men That Built Houses”

(The **Bible** the Basis for All Beliefs)

The Parable of:

“The Two Men that built Houses” (Matthew 7:24-29)

In the previous several parables, Jesus has been warning his listeners of the **dangers** that **false teachers** put them in. Their **eternal life** depends upon their recognizing the **difference** between the **truth** and **false teachings**!

He has warned them that “**many**” Christians will be **lost** while thinking they are saved! He has told them to “**test**” the “**fruit**” of their teachers and warned them that they will “look good” on the outside (sheeps clothing) but inwardly they are like **wolves** who want to destroy them! Not only did Jesus constantly implore his listeners to “**do right**” with His **words**, but His **life** was a constant example of “**doing right**”!

In contrast to this He warned his listeners against teachers who had learned the truth to “**do right**”, but then **turned** around and began “**doing wrong**” all over again! These “**false teachers**” would tell their listeners that they **no longer** had to **obey the commandments** but that they were “**free**” and could **do whatever they liked**. The Bible compares **them** to being like a “**pig**” that was “**washed**” who returned to **wallowing in the mud**. “**Christians**” that **followed their teachings** would be like “**salt**” that had **lost its savour** and was fit for nothing but to be cast out!

Now, Jesus gives the **Parable** of:

“The Two Men that built Houses”

Matthew 7:24-27 The Two Men that built Houses

24 "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

26 And everyone that heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it."

Paraphrase:

The one who hears what Jesus says and **does it**, is a **wise** man! He is like a man that built his house upon a **rock**.

The one who hears what Jesus says and **does not do it**, is a **foolish** man!

He is like a man that built his house on **sand**. When the rain, wind, and floods beat upon the two houses, only the one built upon the **rock** remained.

The house built upon **sand** was destroyed.

Comments:

Nothing is said in the parable about the **type** of house being built. One house could have been a mansion on the sand by the seashore and the other house a log cabin on a rock in the mountains. Nothing is said about **the materials** that the houses were built out of. One house may have been built with marble stones and gold and silver, while the other house may have been built from wood and iron. There are several things that the parable **does tell us**. It tells us what the **men** building the houses **were like!**

Comments: (cont.)

One man was a **wise** man. The other man was **foolish**. The parable also tells us that there was a difference between the **foundations** of the two houses. The wise man had chosen to build his house upon a **rock** for his foundation. The foolish man had chosen to build his house upon **sand** for his foundation. No one forced either man to build in a certain way. Each man **chose** the **foundation** for **his house**. The whole parable seems to center around the fact that choosing the **right foundation** is what made one man **wise** and one man **foolish**. Jesus compares this choice to being like two men who listened to what He said.

One man listened and **did** what Jesus said to do. The other man listened and **did not do** what Jesus said to do. Thus, the primary teaching of this parable is very clear. You will **Do what Jesus says if you are wise!!** The second teaching of this parable is also clear. You must **choose the right foundation** to build on or all the rest of your efforts will be in vain!!

Let's compare

our two choices for "**foundations**" :

1. **rock** or 2. **sand**

Summarizing

The **differences** between these two **foundation** materials:

Physical rock

1. **Immovable**
2. **Changeless** with respect to time.
3. Anything **attached** to it **is secure** and can't be moved.
4. It **will support** anything that stands upon it and will not let it sink.
5. The Physical **elements** of rain, wind, floods **will not affect it**.

Spiritual rock

1. Spiritually **Immovable**.
2. Spiritually **Changeless**.
3. Anything attached is Spiritually **Secure**.
4. Spiritual **Support** for anything that stands upon it.
5. Spiritual **Elements** **will not** affect it.


Physical sand


1. **Easily moved**
2. **Changes** constantly.
3. Anything **attached** to it **is unsecure** and can be easily moved.
4. It **will not** support anything that stands upon it, but will allow it to sink.
5. The Physical **elements** of rain, wind, floods **will affect it**.

Spiritual sand

1. Spiritually **moved easily**.
2. Spiritually **changes const.**
3. Anything attached is Spiritually **unsecure**.
4. **No Spiritual support** for anything that stands upon it.
5. Spiritual **elements** **will** affect it.


Now we need to discover what the Bible says that “**rock**” and “**sand**” represent **Spiritually**, so that we will understand why these two “**foundation**” materials are so important!

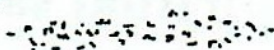
Key Word 

ROCK = ? 

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ROCK = CHRIST
1Cor.10:4
"... They drank of that
Spiritual **Rock** that
followed them: and that
Rock was **Christ**".

Key Word 

SAND = ? 

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SAND = People
Joshua 11:4
"And they went out, and all
their hosts with them, much
people, even as the **sand**
upon the seashore..."

Rock = Christ (God)

Sand = people (man)

Thus, the two possible “**foundations**” upon which we can build are either:

1. **Rock ---God’s Words**
- or
2. **sand --- man’s words**

Let's look again at the "differences" between
"rock" and "sand"

Spiritual "**Rock**" (Christ)

1. God is **Immovable**.
2. God is **Changeless**.
3. Anyone "attached" to God is (Spr.) **Secure**.
4. God will "**Support**" anyone who "stands" or depends upon Him and He will **not** let them "**sink**" Spiritually.
5. God is **not affected** by the Spiritual "**Elements**" of Satan and is **never deceived**.

Spiritual "**sand**" (man)

1. man is **easily moved**.
2. man **changes** constantly.
3. Anyone "attached" to man is (Spr.) **unsecure**.
4. man cannot "**support**" anyone who "stands" or depends upon him and anyone who does depend upon man **will "sink"** (Spr.).
5. man is **affected** by the Spiritual "**Elements**" and is **easily deceived**.

These "differences" clearly show us the advantage of "**building on Rock**" (God) for a "foundation" instead of "**building on sand**" (man).

Now we know **why** Christ gave this parable right after the parable of the Two Ways (broad and narrow), and after telling us to **beware of false teachers** and to "**test their fruits**".

Now, He has once again warned us **not to trust** in the **words of men**, but rather to **trust** in the **Words of God!**

Jere. 17:5...Cursed be the man that trusteth in man...

:7 Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord...

So, the "**foundation**" of **our beliefs** **MUST** be based on the "**Words**" of God instead of the "**words**" of men or we are "foolish" and "cursed"!!

Why would anyone want to have their **beliefs** or their **“foundation”** based on the **“words of men”** ?

They **wouldn’t!** They have been **deceived** into thinking that **“mens words”** are **“God’s Words”!**

Many people do **not** read God’s Word (**Bible**) themselves, but rather **depend upon** a **“man”** (**their preacher**) to tell them what **“God’s words”** are!! Their **“foundation”** is whatever the **“man”** (preacher) says!!

The preacher **“man”** may have the best intentions but he may be **wrong** in what he says!!

Jesus warned the people that their **leaders** would **“teach”** the **“commandments of men”** for **doctrines** and that their worship would be **in vain!**

Matthew 15:9; 12-14

9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

(Worship is **“in vain”** if the **“doctrines”** and **“commandments of men”** are being followed.)

12 Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were **“offended”**, after they heard this saying?

(Religious teachers will be **“offended”** because **“their teachings”** are questioned.)

13 But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.

14 Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

(The **“religious teachers”** were **“blind”** to the truth and caused the people to be **“blind”** also, the result being that **both the teachers and the people** will be lost!)

Conclusion:

Thus, the primary teaching of this parable is that **Christ (God)** and **His Words (Bible)** are to be the **"foundation"** (rock) for **all** our **beliefs**!

We are **not** to base our beliefs on the **"sandy foundation"** of the **"words of men"** (preachers or teachers)!

The **"Words"** of **God** are contained in the **Bible**.

The **"words of men"** are contained in other **books** as well as in **"sermons"**!

The House

Now that we know that the **"foundation"** that we are to **"build on"** represents **God's Words (Bible)**, we need to discover what the **"house"** being built in the parable represents.

<p>Key Word </p>  <p>HOUSE = ?</p> <p><small>COPYRIGHT © 1998 by PAUL T. SARRETT</small></p>	<p>HOUSE = Church (God's people)</p> <p>Hebrews 3:6 "But Christ a son over His own house; whose house are we ..."</p>
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Thus, the Bible tells us that the **"house"** being built represents the **Church**. So, this is a parable about **"the church"** and how the **"foundation"** of **"the Church"** is very important! The parable describes two different **"houses"** or two different **"Churches"**. One **"house"** or **"Church"** built by a **foolish man** and another **"house"** or **"Church"** built by a **wise man**.

One Church built upon the foundation of **God's Words**.
One Church built upon the foundation of **man's words**.

The parable also tells us the **“result”** of building a **“house”** or **“Church”** upon each of these **“foundations”**.
The **“Church”** built upon the **“foundation”** of **God’s Word** will **stand firm** against anything!
The **“Church”** built upon the **“foundation”** of **man’s word** will **fall** and be **destroyed!**

The Elements: (wind, rain, floods)

The parable tells us that after the **“houses”** were built they were **“tested”** by the elements of wind, rain, and floods.

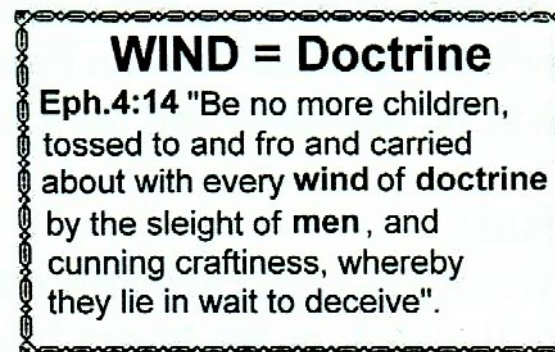
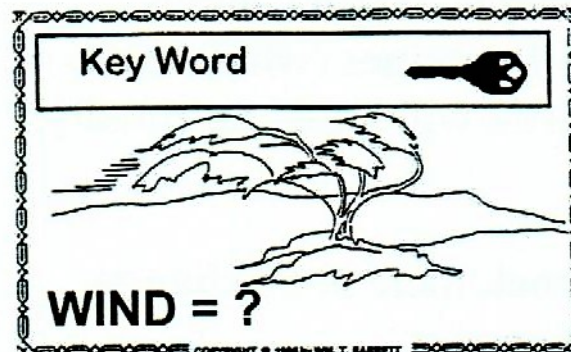
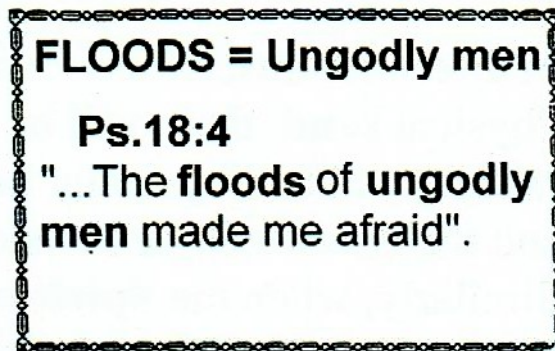
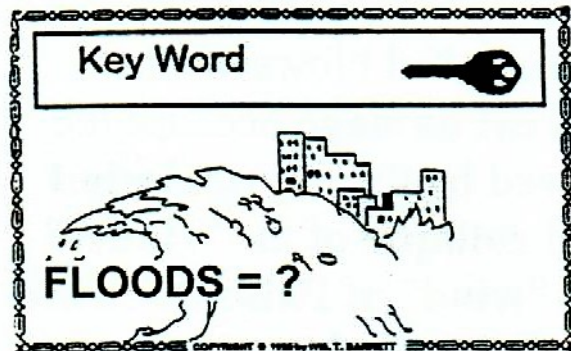
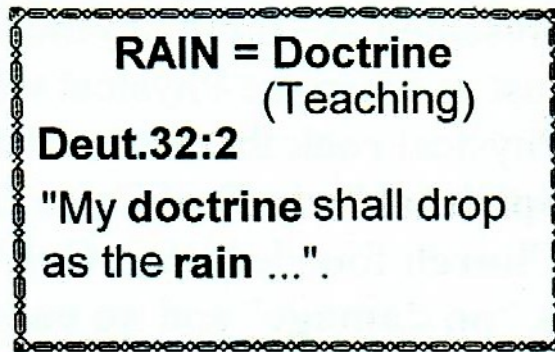
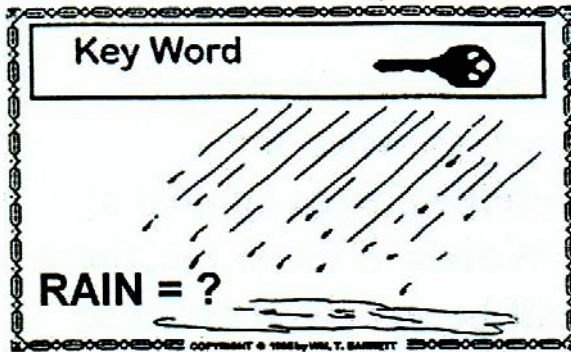
Thus, the two types of **Churches** will be **“tested”** by the **Spiritual “Elements”** of (Spr) **“rain”**, and (Spr) **“wind”** and (Spr) **“floods”** and only **one** of the Churches will **remain** after the **test!**

The **Church** that **remains** after the **“test”** is the **Church** that has for its **“foundation”** the **Words of God**.

The **Church** that **falls** during the **“test”** is the **Church** that has for its **“foundation”** the **words of men**.

Now we need to discover what the **“test elements”** of **“wind”**, **“rain”**, and **“floods”** represent **Spiritually**.

The "test" Elements: (Rain, Floods, Wind)



Rain = Doctrines of God
Floods = ungodly men
Wind = Doctrines of men

Thus, the "test" Elements will involve the Churches in a confrontation of **choosing** between:

the "Doctrines" of God
or
the "Doctrines" of men
99

Wind

Every “**wind**” of **Doctrine** that men can invent will be presented as “**truth**” to the **Churches**!

Just as when the Physical **wind** blows against a Physical **rock** there is no damage, so when the **Spiritual “wind”** of **False Doctrine** comes against a **Church** founded upon **God’s Words** in the Bible, there is “**no damage**” and **no one will be deceived** because they **know the truth**!

In direct contrast, when Physical **wind** blows against Physical **sand**, there will be **great damage** because the “**sand**” will be Physically **moved** by the Physical **wind** and the **result** will be Physical **collapse** of the “**House**”. Similarly, when the **Spiritual “wind”** of **False Doctrine** is presented to a **Church** founded upon the “**words of men**” (sand), the people of that Church will be “**moved**” by the **False Doctrines** (wind) and will be **deceived** and the **Church** will “**fall**” Spiritually.

Rain

When Physical **rain** falls on **rock** there is **no change** to the **rock** or the **house** built upon it.

Similarly, when the “**Doctrines of the Lord**” (rain) are presented to a Church founded upon Christ and His Word there is **no change** to that Church because its beliefs are the **same**.

But, when Physical **rain** falls on **sand** there is a **change**, and some of the **sand** will **move** or “change its position”. Similarly, when the “**Doctrines of the Lord**” are heard by some **people** who have been deceived, they will “**change their position**” Spiritually and **leave** that **False Church** and **join the Church** teaching the **truth**!!

Floods

As more and more Physical **rain** falls, at last the “**floods**” will come. When the “**floods**” beat against a “**rock**” or a “**house**” **founded upon a “rock”** there will be **no change** to the rock or the house on the rock.

Similarly, as the **Doctrines of the Lord** (rain) are presented to more and more people (sand), **ungodly men** (floods) will attempt to **destroy** the **Church** teaching **truth** (house on rock), to prevent the **people** (sand) from **leaving the false Churches**. Just as “**sand**” being removed from under a “**house**” would cause it to collapse, so the **people** (sand) **leaving the False Churches** will cause them to “fall”.

Thus, the “**test**” to come to **all the Churches** and **all the people** is the “**test**” of **who** will you **believe**?

Will you believe the “**words of men**” ?

or

Will you believe the “**Words of God**” ?

Doctrinal Truth (Taught by **Jesus** in the Parable of “The Two Men that built Houses)

1 If you are **wise** you will **do** the things that Jesus has told you to do.

2 If you are **foolish** you will **not do** the things that Jesus has told you to do.

3 The **wise** person will have for his “**foundation**” (rock) **Jesus Christ** and His teachings **in the Bible**.

4 The **foolish** person will have for his “foundation”(sand) **men and their teachings**.

5 A **Church**(house) founded upon **Christ**(rock) and **His teachings** will **stand** against anything.

6 A **Church**(house) founded upon **men**(sand) and **their teachings** will **fall** and be destroyed.

7 **Christ**(God) is the “Rock” that is **Immovable, Changeless, Our Security, Our Support, and Our Shelter** in the time of Storm or “test”.

8 **Man** is the “sand” that is **easily moved, changes** constantly, is **unsecure**, will **not support** anything, and **cannot shelter** anyone in the time of Storm or “test”.

9 Each **person** and each **Church** will be “**tested**” and have to **decide** whether they will **believe**: the “**words of men**” or the “**Words of God**”.

The Parable of:
***“The Tares Among
the Wheat”***

(The Joining of the Churches)

The Parable of:

“The Tares Among the Wheat” (Matthew 13:24-30)

Matthew 13:24-30

- 24** Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field.
- 25** But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.
- 26** But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.
- 27** So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? From whence then hath it tares?
- 28** He said unto them, an enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?
- 29** But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.
- 30** Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

Explanation of the Parable by Jesus (Matt. 13:36-43)

Matthew 13:36-43

- 36** Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying,
Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field.
- 37** He answered and said unto them, he that soweth the good seed is the Son of Man;
- 38** The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one.
- 39** The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.
- 40** As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of the world.
- 41** The Son of Man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;
- 42** And shall cast them into a furnace of fire; there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.
- 43** Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Comments:

Since the meanings of the real objects used in the parable have been explained by Jesus, it makes paraphrasing the parable much easier. This parable, like the parable of the Pearl, has two meanings. The first meaning, using the “**field**” to represent the entire world, shows that at the end of time, the entire world will be divided into two groups. The second meaning, using the expression “**His field**” and “**His kingdom**” to represent the Church, shows that at the end of time the Church will be divided into two groups.

Parable (meaning 1)

Jesus (Son of Man) came into the *world* (field) and taught the truth to *people* (seed). *Some people* (good seed) listened and obeyed Him, and *some people* (tares) listened to the *Devil* (enemy) and obeyed him.

At first the *prophets and teachers* (servants) of *Jesus* (householder) wanted to *separate* (gather out) those who were *disobedient* (do iniquity) from those who were *obedient* (righteous), but *Jesus* (householder) said **no** (nay) because they would remove some of the *righteous* (wheat) while they were removing *those that did iniquity* (tares). At the *end of the world* (harvest), the *angels* (reapers) will be sent by *Jesus* (Son of Man) and they will gather out of His kingdom all those that have *disobeyed Him* (do iniquity) and they will be burned with fire. Then, the angels will gather all those who have *obeyed Him* (righteous, wheat) together to enjoy the kingdom of their Father.

Doctrinal Truth (Taught by **Jesus** in the Parable of
(meaning 1) “The Tares Among The Wheat”)

1. Everyone will have an opportunity to hear the truth that Jesus taught.
2. Those that listen and **obey** Him are called the **righteous**.
3. Those that listen but **refuse to obey** Him are called **doers of iniquity**.
4. At the present time, both the righteous and the doers of iniquity are **together** as one.
5. At the end of the world a separation will be made by Jesus and His angels.
6. The doers of iniquity will be gathered together **first**.
7. Then, the righteous will be gathered together.
8. The doers of iniquity will be burned by fire.
9. The righteous will enjoy the kingdom of their Father.

Parable (meaning 2)

This parable makes it plain that at the end of the world there will be **two groups** of people (wheat **or** tares). At the present time there is only one group (wheat **and** tares). Jesus said that the “*wheat*” represents the righteous and that the “*tares*” represents those that do iniquity (verse 40-43)

Before the “gathering out” (verses 40, 41) of these two groups, the “*tares*” are mixed in **with** the “*wheat*” (verse 25). Thus, in the **church** (among the “*wheat*”) are those that do iniquity (“*tares*”). This then, is a parable that tells us how the Lord is going to purify His Church by **removing** the “*tares*” from it!

Once the “gathering out” of the “*tares*” from the **church** has been done, then the “righteous shall shine forth as the sun” (verses 41-43). To “shine” means to “reflect light”.

Since the Bible calls **Jesus Christ** the “**Sun of Righteousness**” (Mal. 4:2), then the parable is saying that “the righteous will *reflect the light* (shine) of *Christ’s righteousness* (sun)”. In other words, the righteous will resemble Christ in character. They will have on the “**robe of Christ’s righteousness**” and they will **not** be willfully sinning! Since to “shine” means to “reflect **light**” and “light” spiritually represents **truth**, the parable is also saying that the righteous will “teach the **truth**” (shine) about **Christ’s righteousness** (as the sun).

Thus, once the Church has been purified by having those that do iniquity (tares) “gathered out”, **then** the Church can do its work of **teaching** all the **Truth** to those in the **world** who have **not heard the Truth**!

The “*tares*” (doers of iniquity) **look like** the “*wheat*” who represent the righteous. This means that the “*tares*” do **not** represent the “wicked” of the world, who do **not** “look like” the righteous but rather the “*tares*” represent the “wicked” (doers of iniquity) **in the Church!**

The “**doers of iniquity**” were described in the parable of the “Broad and Narrow Ways” as those “casting out devils”, and doing many wonderful works in the Lord’s name.

Thus, they are clearly *professing* “**Christians**”. The parable says that the Lord will “gather out of His kingdom” the “*tares*” or those that offend. Here again it is plainly describing the **Church** as being purified.

No one will deny that there are **more** wicked people or “*tares*” in the world than there are “*wheat*” or righteous people. The text said that the “*tares*” were among the “*wheat*”, which clearly means that the “*wheat*” were the majority and the “*tares*” were the minority. The **only place** in the world that the “*wheat*” or righteous are in the majority is **in the Church**. Therefore, to “gather **out** the *tares* from among the wheat” has to represent **removing** those who are “doers of iniquity” from the **Church**.

In the Parable the servants were instructed “**not**” to gather up the *tares* lest they root up also the *wheat* (verses 28, 29). This shows that the “*wheat*” and “*tares*” looked alike.

Thus, within the Church are those who on the outside **appear** to be “**Christians**” (look like *wheat*) but who are **really** “doers of iniquity” (*tares*). Men cannot tell the difference, but the Lord and the angels (reapers) **can**, and they will “gather” them **out of the Church** (verses 30, 40, 41). When this happens, there will be **two groups** of “**Church members**”-- those **left** in a **True Church** group and those *professing* to be “Christians” in a **False Church** group.

During the “time of the harvest” or at the end of the world, the “**tares**” were to be “gathered out” **first** and **bound together** (verse 30). Then, the “*wheat*” was to be “gathered into the barn”. This means that the **first group** of *professing* “**Christians**” to be **united** or “**bound together**” will represent the **False Church group** which will ultimately be “burned up” (verse 30). This group will be a very large group of *professing* “**Christians**”. This parable calls them “**doers of iniquity**”, and we know from our study of the parable of the “Broad and Narrow Ways” that the **many** were “workers of iniquity” and that they were *professing* “**Christians**” doing many things in the Lord’s name (casting out devils, etc.).

Since the “Church” represents **all Christian denominations**, then we would expect there to be a “gathering out” and a “**binding together**” of **all Christian denominations** except for those who represent the **True Church**, who consist of those who are **really Christians** and who the Lord calls the “**righteous**”.

After the “**binding together**” or **uniting** of the **many False “Christians”**, then the “*wheat*” or **True Christians** who are in **every denomination** will be “**gathered together**” or **united** together into the Lord’s “barn” or **True Church** (verse 30).

Those who have **united together** in the **first False Church group** will be **burned up** (verses 30, 40-42)! Those who have **not united together** with the **first False Church group** will be “gathered together” into God’s **True Church** and will “enjoy the kingdom of their Father” (verses 30, 43)!

Doctrinal Truth (Taught by **Jesus** in the Parable of
“The Tares Among The Wheat”)

1. According to Jesus “*wheat*” represents the “children of the kingdom” or the **righteous**.
2. According to Jesus “*tares*” represent the “children of the wicked one” or **doers of iniquity**.
3. The “*tares*” represent the “doers of iniquity” **within** the Christian Church. They appear to be “Christians” but are really “doers of iniquity”.
4. The “*tares*” or “doers of iniquity” will be gathered out of the **Church** by the Lord and the angels at the **end** of the world.
5. At the *present time* there is only **one group** of people that make up the **Church**; a **mixture** of “*wheat*” and “*tares*” or a mixture of righteous and doers of iniquity.
6. At the **end** of the world there will be **two groups** of people; either “*wheat*” or “*tares*” or a *separation* between the righteous and the doers of iniquity.
7. When the “doers of iniquity” (*tares*) have been *separated* from the “righteous” (*wheat*), the **Church** will have been **purified**.
8. When it has been **purified**, then the **Church** will “shine forth as the sun”, which means that those left will “*reflect the light* (shine) of *Christ’s righteousness* (of the sun)”. They will resemble Christ in **character**. (They will not be willfully sinning.) They will teach the **truth** (shine) about **Christ’s righteousness** (as the sun) to all the world.

9. At the "time of harvest" or at the **end** of the world, the "*tares*" or "doers of iniquity", will be gathered out first and be "**bound together**".
10. This **First** group of "doers of iniquity" will be a **very large group** of *professing* "Christians" who will **Unite** or be "**bound together**". They represent the **False Church** or the "**many**" on the "Broad Way" who "cast out devils", etc. in the Lord's name but who will receive the reward of destruction or being **burned up**.
11. After the **Uniting** of this **First large group** of *professing* "Christians" who comprise the **False Church**, there will be a **Second group** consisting of **True Christians** who will be "gathered together" by the Lord.
12. This **Second group** will be "**few**" in number compared to the "**many**" in the **First group**, but the "few" in the **Second group** represent the **True Church** and the Lord calls them the "righteous". They will receive the reward of **Eternal Life** and enjoy the "kingdom of their Father".
13. The "*rewards*" given, are **not given** until the "**end of the world**". This means that **no one** is burning in hell now! The wicked will be **burned up** at the **end** of the world! The righteous receive **Eternal Life** at the **end** of the world.

The Parable of:
The
“Right Eye Plucked
Out”

(What **Hell** is Like.)

The Parable of:

“The Right Eye Plucked Out”

(Matthew 5:29)

Matt. 5: 29

29 “And if thy **right eye** “**offend**” thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy **members** should perish, and not that thy **whole body** should be cast into hell.”

This parable begins the teachings of Jesus regarding **Hell**. It teaches us that people will be cast into hell “**bodily**” or to put it another way, they will be **burned up** as **real people** having arms and legs, etc. rather than as “spirits”.

In the parable of the “wheat and the tares”, Jesus teaches that the wicked(tares) will be “cast into hell” at the **end of the world**, thus teaching that all the wicked receive their punishment at the **same time**.

Matthew 13: 40-42

40 “As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fires; so shall it be in the **end of this world**.”

41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that **offend**, and them which do iniquity;

42 And shall **cast** them into a **furnace of fire**: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”

We will use the Concordance to see what the Bible says about **Hell**, and then we will look at this Parable.

THE BIBLE CONCEPT OF HELL

*The Bible says that the fire of Hell is not "**kindled**" or started until the end of the world.*

Matt.13:40

"As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of the world."

Deut.32:22

"For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains."

Luke12:49

"I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled?"

*The fire of HELL is not in the earth or any place else. **Hellfire will come down from God** out of heaven and fall on the earth.*

Rev.20:7,9

"And when the thousand years are expired, Satan... shall go out to...gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up..and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them."

Malachi.4:1,3

"For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall **burn them up**,..it shall leave them neither root nor branch.. They shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts."

THE BIBLE CONCEPT OF HELL

*The **Hellfire** will not continually burn the wicked forever but will burn them up and then **go out**.*

Nahum 1:9,10

"What do you imagine against the **LORD**? he will make an **utter end**...they shall be devoured as stubble fully dry."

Malachi 4:1,3

"All that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up,...it shall leave them neither root nor branch...they shall be **ashes**.."

Isaiah 47:14

"Behold, they shall be stubble; the fire shall burn them;..there shall **not be a coal** to warm at, **nor fire** to sit before it."

***Hellfire** destroys both body and soul of the wicked.*

Matt.10:28

"And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

Ezekiel 18:4

"Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die."

Psalms 22:29

"All they that go down to the dust...and none can keep alive his own **soul**."

Psalms 49:7,8

"None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him: For the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth for ever."

THE BIBLE CONCEPT OF HELL

*No one has an "immortal soul" that lives on forever. Only God has **Immortality**. Immortality is given to the righteous as a gift from God when He comes in the clouds of heaven . The wicked never receive immortality but are destroyed, never to exist again.*

1 Timothy :15,16

..“The King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath **immortality**”

Romans 2:7

"To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and **immortality**.."

1 Corinthians 15:53,54

"For ..this mortal must put on **immortality**.

...then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory."

*Satan himself is **not immortal** but will be **destroyed** along with all the wicked.*

Ezekiel 28:12-14

"..Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God... Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth.."

Ezekiel 28:16,18,19

"I will **destroy** thee, O covering cherub.. a fire.. shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to **ashes** upon the earth..and never shalt thou be any more."

Rev.20:10

"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone..."

SUMMARY OF: THE BIBLE CONCEPT OF HELL

1. *The Bible says that the fire of Hell is not **kindled**" or started until the end of the world.*
2. *The fire of HELL is not in the earth or any place else. **Hellfire** will come down from God out of heaven and fall on the earth.*
3. *The **Hellfire** will not continually burn the wicked forever but will burn them up and **go out**.*
4. ***Hellfire** destroys both body and soul of the wicked.*
5. *No one has an "immortal soul" that lives on forever. Only God has **Immortality**. Immortality is given to the righteous as a gift from God when He comes in the clouds of heaven . The wicked never receive immortality but are destroyed, never to exist again.*
6. *Satan himself is **not immortal** but will be **destroyed** along with all the wicked.*

Now we will continue with the Parable of:
"The Right Eye Plucked Out"

The Parable of: "The Right Eye Plucked Out"

(Matthew 5:29)

Matt. 5: 29

29 "And if thy **right eye** "**offend**" thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy **members** should perish, and not that thy **whole body** should be cast into hell."

To "pluck out" an eye is a serious thing, whether the "eye" is literal or Spiritual! Therefore, we need to know clearly what it means to "**offend**" and what the "**right eye**" means.

We will first look at the literal meaning of "**offend**":

Offend Mt.5:29 #4624 (scandalize) to entrap or entice to sin, make to offend, scandal, snare, cause of sin....

Thus, to "**offend**" literally means to **sin** and **cause others to sin**. Now, let's see what the **Bible** says about "**offend**".

Matt. 13: 41

41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that **offend**, and them which **do iniquity**;

Romans 5: 18,19

18....by the **offence** of one, judgment came upon all

19 For as by one man's **disobedience many were made sinners**,

Thus, the Bible agrees that to "**offend**" means to **sin** and **cause others to sin**.

Let's look at the text "**Physically**" first:

On the surface the text says literally or physically:

Paraphrase:

If our "eye" causes us to sin ("offend"), then it would be better for us to remove that "eye" (pluck out one of the members) and let the "eye" die (perish) than to have our "whole body" (arms, legs, feet, etc.) cast into hell.

Physically, this parable teaches us that what we **look at** physically will affect what we **do** physically and it will affect what **happens to us physically** (cast into hell or go to heaven).

Now, let's look at the text "**Spiritually**":

Paraphrase:


If our Spiritual "eye" causes us to sin ("offend"), then it would be better for us to remove that Spiritual "eye" (pluck out one of the members) and let the Spiritual "eye" die (perish) than to have our "whole Spiritual body" cast into hell.



A (Spiritual) "eye" is used by a (Spiritual) "body" to (Spiritually) guide each of its (Spiritual) "members"

Now we need to discover what the Spiritual meaning of this Parable is by discovering what the "**right eye**" and other Real Objects mean **Spiritually**.

(Spiritual)

Eye = Prophet or Leader

Key Word 

EYES = ?


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EYES = prophets of God

Isa.29:10 "...The Lord... hath closed your **eyes**; the **Prophets** and your rulers, the **seers** hath he covered."

1Sam.9:9 "... A prophet was beforetime called a **seer**."

Eye = Wisdom and Understanding

Key Word 

EYES = ?

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EYES = wisdom and understanding

Eph.1:18 "The **eyes** of your **understanding** being enlightened."

Isa.29:14 "...for the **wisdom** of their wise men shall perish, and the **understanding** of their prudent men shall be hid."

Thus the (Spiritual) “**eye**” of the church is its Prophet or Minister or Pastor who is supposed to **lead** the people **wisely**. In the Parable the “**eye**” “**offended**” or was a **snare** and **caused others to sin**.

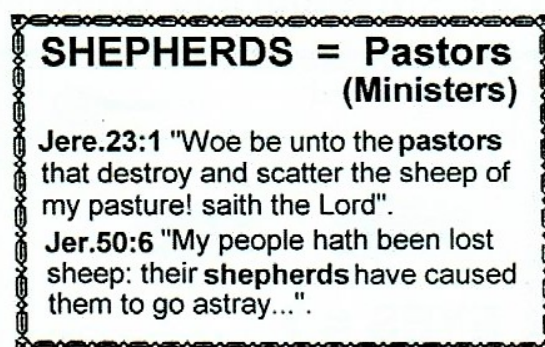
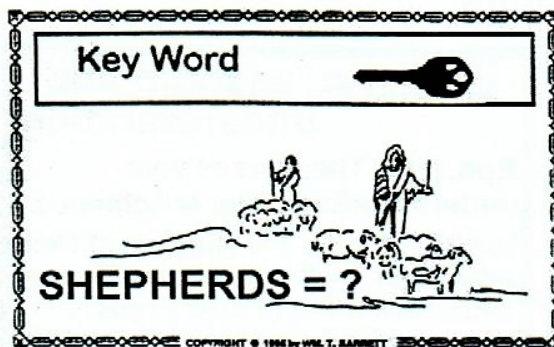
The Parable stated that the “**right eye**” (that **offended**) was to be “plucked out”.

Let’s see what the Bible says about the “**right eye**”.

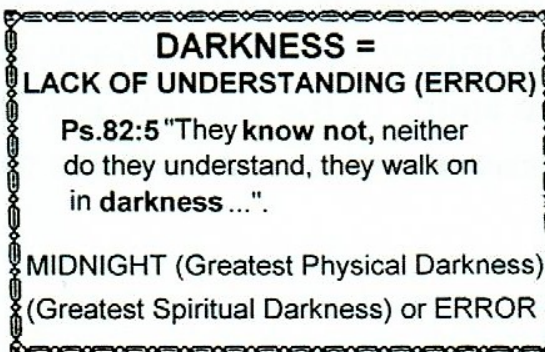
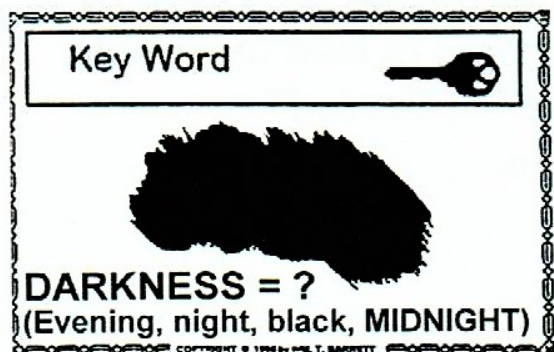
(Spiritual) PASTOR
Right Eye = or
 (Darkened) SHEPHERD
 (That is “blind”)
 or
 (Lacks Spiritual understanding)

Zechariah 11:17
 17 Woe to the **idol**
shepherd that
 leaveth the flock!
 ...his **right eye**
 shall be utterly
darkened.

SHEPHERD = PASTOR or MINISTER



DARKNESS = LACK OF UNDERSTANDING



Thus, the Bible has confirmed that the “right eye” to be plucked out, represents a Pastor or Minister who “**lacks understanding**” and who “leaves his flock” or fails to properly lead them and so causes them to “go astray” or be disobedient to God.

Now we will continue on and learn the Spiritual meaning of the other Real Objects in the Parable.

(Spiritual)

Body = The Church

I Cor.12:27,28

Now ye are the **body** of Christ, and **members** in particular.

(Spiritual)

Members = Individual Persons
in the church

Conclusions:

1. To “**offend**” means to **sin** and cause others to sin.
2. A Spiritual “**eye**” is a Prophet or **Pastor** that is supposed to **lead** God’s people wisely.
3. A Spiritual “**eye**” that “**offends**” represents a **Pastor** that *causes* his Church members to **sin**.
4. A Spiritual “**right eye**” that has been **darkened** represents a **Pastor** that lacks understanding and so causes his Church members to “**go astray**” or sin.
5. A Spiritual “**body**” represents all the people in a Church.
6. A Spiritual “**member**” represents an individual person in a Church.

When Jesus said; “And if thy **right eye** offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy **members** should perish, and not that thy whole **body** should be cast into hell”, He was Spiritually saying;

Paraphrase:

If your **Pastor** (right eye) lacks understanding and because of this is **causing** the Church members **to sin** because **they don't know Gods will** (offend), the Church should **remove him** (pluck it out).

It is better for the Church that one of the **members** (**Pastor/right eye**) should be **lost** (perish), instead of the **whole Church** (whole body) being **lost** or cast into hell.

Doctrinal Truth (Taught by **Jesus** in the Parable of “The Right Eye Plucked Out”)

1. What we **look at** (physically) will affect what we **do** (physically) and it will affect what **happens to us** (physically).
2. We will either be lost (cast into hell) or saved (receive eternal life), depending upon **how we control what we look at**. (pluck out the right eye if it offends).
3. If we are lost (cast into hell) we will be “cast into hell” as a whole person (bodily) with arms, legs etc. and burned, rather than as a “spirit”.
4. The Pastor of a Church is to be the Spiritual “eye” or leader of the people.
5. The Pastor must have “correct understanding” of Spiritual Truth if he is to properly lead the people of the Church.
6. There **are** Pastors that lack correct understanding of Spiritual truth and **their** lack of understanding will **cause** the members of the Church to sin or disobey God’s will.
7. If a Church discovers that their Pastor lacks understanding of Spiritual truth they are to **remove him**.
8. The “removal” of a Pastor lacking understanding of Spiritual Truth is very important, in order to prevent the **Whole Church** from being **deceived and lost** or “cast into hell”.

The Parable of:
The Feast of the Birds
and
The Desolate Land

(The 1000 Years)

The Parable of:
The Feast of the Birds
and
The Desolate Land

Rev.19:11 "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

:16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, **KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS**.

:17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the **fowls** that fly in the midst of heaven, come and gather yourselves together unto the **supper** of the great God: that ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men.."

Matthew 24:27,28

"For as the lightning cometh out of the east and shineth even unto the west so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be.

For wheresoever the **carcass** is, there will the **eagles** be gathered together."

The above Bible verses clearly tell us that when **Jesus comes** the Second time, the **wicked** will be food for the **birds** or "**fowls**".

Lets see what the Bible says about this "**feast day** for the **birds**".

PROPHETIC SCRIPTURE	COMMENT
<p>Revelation 19:11, 16-18 " And I <u>saw heaven opened</u> and behold a white horse and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and <u>make war</u>.... And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, <u>KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS</u>. And I saw an angle standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, <u>saying to all the fowls</u> that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; that ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the <u>flesh of mighty men</u>..."</p>	<p><i>The wicked will be food for the birds. (<u>eagles</u>)</i></p>
<p>Zephaniah 1:3,18 "I will consume man and beast; I will consume the fowls of the heaven, and the fishes of the sea, and the stumbling-blocks with the wicked; and I will cut off man from off the land, saith the lord. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them <u>in the day of the Lord's wrath</u>; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land."</p>	<p><i>God will <u>destroy all life on earth</u> when He sends fire upon it. The <u>earth will be empty</u>.</i></p>
<p>Jeremiah 4:23-27 "I beheld the earth and, lo, it was <u>without form and void</u>; and the heavens, and they had no light. I beheld, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I <u>beheld</u>, and, lo, there was no man, and <u>all the birds of the heavens were fled</u>. I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the <u>cities thereof were broken down</u> at the <u>presence of the Lord</u>, and by <u>his fierce anger</u>. For thus hath the Lord said, the whole land shall be desolate: yet will I not make a full end."</p>	<p><i>The whole earth will be empty and <u>desolate</u>, but God will not make a full end yet.</i></p>

PROPHETIC SCRIPTURE	COMMENT
<p>Isaiah 24:19, 21-23 "The <u>earth</u> is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. And it shall come to pass in that day, that <u>the Lord shall punish</u> the host of the high ones that are on high, and the <u>kings of the earth</u> upon the earth. And they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and <u>after many days shall they be visited</u>."</p>	<p><i>While the earth is desolate the wicked are <u>dead</u> for a long time.</i></p>
<p>Revelation 20:1-3 "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he <u>laid hold</u> on the Dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, <u>and bound him a thousand years</u>, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should <u>deceive the nations no more</u>, till the thousand years should be <u>fulfilled</u>: and after that he must be loosed a little season."</p>	<p><i>The Devil will not be able to deceive anyone for a long time (1000 years)</i></p>
<p>Revelation 20:4, 6, 5 "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that <u>were beheaded for the witness of Jesus</u>, and <u>for the word of God</u>, and which had not worshiped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and <u>they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years</u>. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the <u>first resurrection</u>: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. But the rest of the dead <u>lived not again until the thousand years were finished</u>. This is the first resurrection."</p>	<p><i>During the <u>1000 years</u> the righteous will be living and reigning with Christ in heaven because the earth will be desolate.</i></p> <p><i>During the <u>1000 years</u> the wicked will all be dead</i></p>

PROPHETIC SCRIPTURE	COMMENT
<p>Revelation 20:7, 8 "And when the thousand years are <u>expired</u>, Satan shall be <u>loosed</u> out of his prison, and shall go out to <u>deceive the nations</u> which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, <u>to gather them together to battle</u>: the number which is as the sand of the sea."</p>	<p><i>After the <u>1000 years</u> the wicked are resurrected and Satan gathers them for <u>battle</u>.</i></p>
<p>Zechariah 14:1-5, 9 "Behold, <u>the day of the Lord cometh</u>... For I will <u>gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle</u>; ... Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations...And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, ...and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there <u>shall be a very great valley</u>... And the Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with thee... And the Lord shall be king over all the earth:..."</p>	<p><i>After the <u>1000 years</u> Jesus returns to the earth for the 3rd time and His feet touch the <u>mount of Olives</u>.</i></p> <p><i>The righteous who have been in heaven return to earth with Him.</i></p>
<p>Revelation 21:2, 10 "And I John saw the Holy City, New Jerusalem, <u>coming down from God out of heaven</u>, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city the Holy Jerusalem, descending <u>out of heaven</u> from God."</p>	<p><i>The Holy City, New Jerusalem comes down <u>out of heaven</u> and comes <u>to rest on earth</u> where the <u>mount of Olives</u> was before the feet of Jesus split it.</i></p>
<p>Revelation 20:7-9 "And when the thousand years are <u>expired</u>, Satan... shall go out to <u>deceive</u> the nations... to gather them together <u>to battle</u>: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And <u>they went up</u> on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the <u>camp of the saints about</u>, and the beloved city: and fire came down <u>from God out of heaven</u>, and devoured them."</p>	<p><i>Satan and all the wicked <u>surround the Holy City</u> and God <u>destroys them with fire</u> from heaven.</i></p>

PROPHETIC SCRIPTURE	COMMENT
<p>Nahum 1:9, 10 "What do ye imagine against the Lord? <u>He will make an utter end</u>: affliction shall not rise up the second time. For while they be folden together as thorns, and while they are drunken as drunkards, <u>they shall be devoured as stubble</u> fully dry."</p>	<p><i>God will make a complete end of the wicked.</i></p>
<p>Malachi 4:1,3 "For, behold, the day cometh that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it <u>shall leave them neither root nor branch</u>. And ye shall tread down the wicked; for <u>they shall be ashes</u> under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts."</p>	<p><i>The wicked will be burned up completely leaving only ashes!</i></p>
<p>Isaiah 47:14 "Behold, they shall be as stubble: the fire shall burn them: they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame: there shall not be a coal <u>to warm at</u>, nor fire <u>to sit before it</u>."</p>	<p><i>After the fire has burned up the wicked it will go out!</i></p>

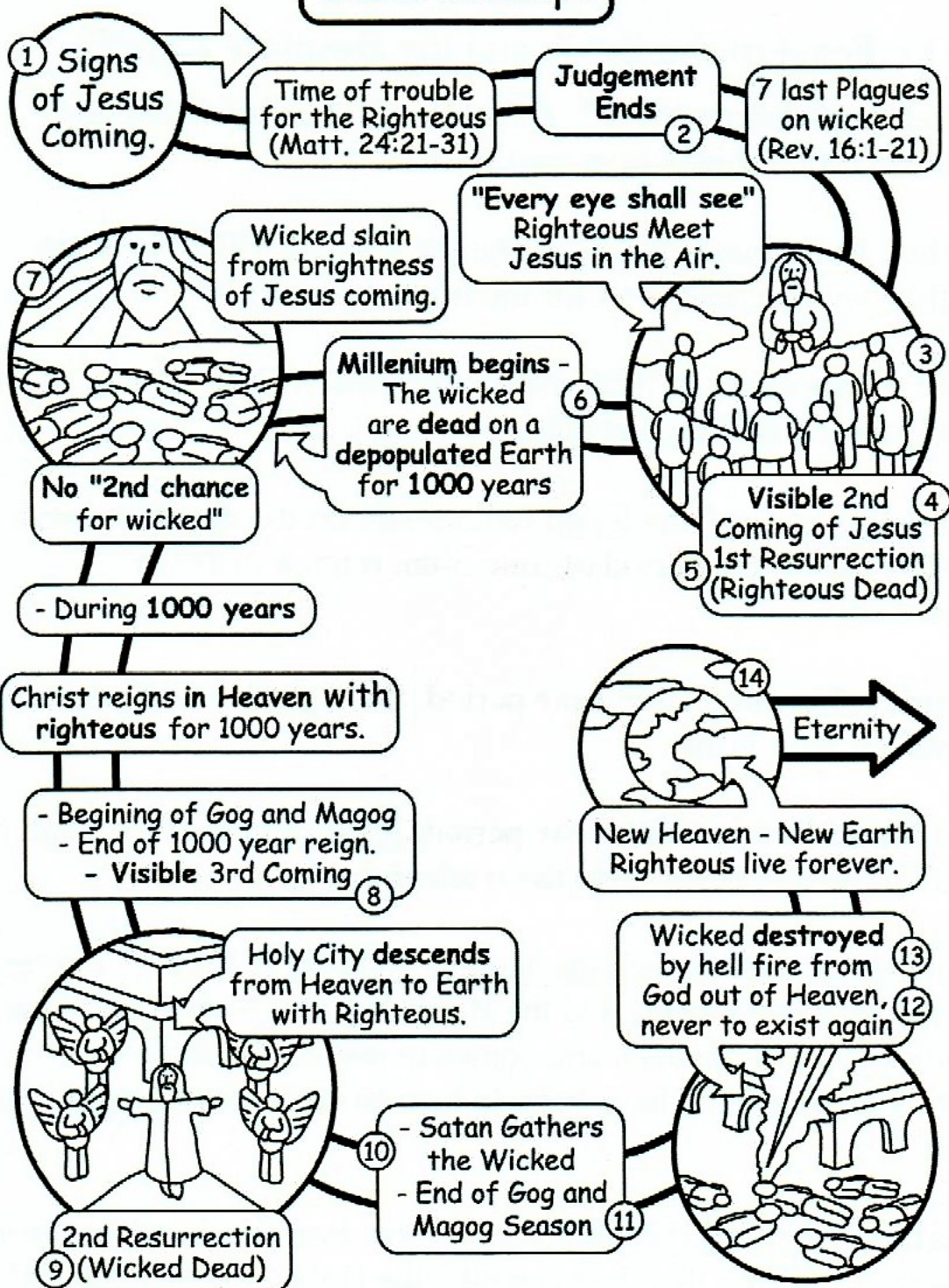
Now, it's time to **Summarize** the **Truths** that we have learned from this parable of "The Feast of the Birds and The Desolate Land".

Doctrinal Truth (Taught by **Jesus** in the Parable of:

“The Feast of the Birds and the Desolate Land”)

1. When Jesus comes the *2nd Time* He will be **visible** like the lightning which shines from east to west.
2. When Jesus comes the *2nd Time* the **wicked** will all be **slain** and they will become **food** for the **birds** or fowls.
3. The **whole earth** or land will be **desolate** with no human life on it and yet God will not yet make a full end.
4. The wicked dead and Satan will remain on the **desolate earth** for **1000 years**, the period of time often referred to as the Millenium.
5. During this same **1000 year** period, the **righteous** will all be **in heaven** with Jesus.
6. At the **end** of the **1000 year** period, Jesus returns to the earth for the *3rd Time* and **resurrects the wicked** dead.
7. The feet of Jesus touch the Mount of Olives at his *3rd Coming* and the **mountain splits** and the Holy City, the **New Jerusalem** *comes down from heaven* and comes to rest on the earth with all the righteous who have been in heaven with Jesus for the 1000 years.
8. **Satan** gathers all the wicked who have ever lived and deceives them into thinking that they can take the Holy City by force and then the wicked surround the New Jerusalem.
9. **God** sends **fire** down from heaven and *destroys* the **wicked**.
10. At this time God makes a **full end** of the **wicked** for all time.
11. The **wicked** will become **ashes** and then the **fire** goes out.

Bible Concept



1 (Mat. 24:3-33)

2 (Rev. 22:11, 12)

3 (1 Thess. 4:16,17)

4 (Re. 1:7)

5 (Re. 20:4-6)

6 (Jere. 4:23-25)

(Isa. 24:1-3)

7 (2 Thess. 1:7-10)

(2 Thess. 2:8)

8 (Rev. 21:10)

(Zech. 14:1-5)

(Jude 14,15)

9 (John 5:29)

10 (Rev. 20:7-9)

11 (Rev. 20:4,5)

12 (Isa. 47:14)

(Mal. 4:1-3)

(EzK. 28:14-19)

13 (Rev. 20:9)

14 (Rev. 21:1-4)

The Parable Of:
***“Let The Dead Bury
The Dead”***

(The Condition of the Dead)

The Parable of:

“Let The Dead Bury The Dead”

(Matthew 8:19-22)

19 And a certain scribe came and said unto him,

Master, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.

20 And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.

21 And another of his disciples said unto him, Lord suffer me first to go and bury my father.

22 But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead.

In this parable the “Main Theme” seems to be about “**Following Jesus**”. In the first part of the parable, a “scribe” says that he will “follow Jesus”, and in the second part “another disciple” says that he will “follow Jesus” after he buries his father.

The “answers” that Jesus gives in both parts of the parable don’t seem to make sense, on the surface.

In the first part of the parable Jesus says:

“foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.”

What do the “holes” of foxes and the “nests” of birds And Jesus himself “not having a place to sleep” have to do with “following Him”?

In the second part of the parable Jesus says:
“Let the dead bury their dead”. How can a dead person bury another dead person? The dead person would have to be alive in order to bury another dead person!

Is Jesus trying to teach us that the dead are really alive or is he trying to teach us just the **opposite**, that the dead are really dead and can't do anything!

Also, is there a connection or relationship between Having “**no place to sleep**” and whether the “**dead are really dead or alive**”? This parable implies that there is a **connection** and that it is **important** to know **what that connection is** so that we can “**follow Jesus**”.

Let's see if we can discover any “connection” between:

1. Having “no place to sleep”
and
2. Whether the “dead are really dead or alive”

We will start with the first part of the parable and think about the **Physical**:

1. Foxes have holes
2. Birds of the air have nests
3. Jesus has no place to sleep

The fox “sleeps” **below** the surface of the ground, in a hole in the **earth**.

The bird “sleeps” **above** the surface of the ground, in a nest in the **air**.

Jesus has **no place** to “sleep”.

Thus, there are **three possible places** to “sleep”:

1. **Below** the surface of the earth
2. **Above** the surface of the earth
3. **No where or no place**

In the second part of the parable Jesus says:

“Let the dead bury the dead”.

When a person is “**buried**”, they are usually placed **below** the surface of the ground, in a hole in the earth.

Sometimes, when a person is “**buried**” they are placed **above** the surface of the ground, in a vault in the air.

The third way that a person is “**buried**” is by cremation or being burned with fire until only ashes remain. These ashes are usually “scattered” in the air or over water and so do not end up in any place.

Thus, there are **three** possible **places** to be “**buried**” when you are “**dead**”:

1. **Below** the surface of the earth
2. **Above** the surface of the earth
3. **No where or no place**

When we compare what we have learned about (places to “**sleep**”) and (places to be “**buried**”), there seems to be a definite “**connection**” or relationship between: “**sleep**” and “**death**”.

Thus, in this parable, Jesus has “**connected**” the subjects of: “**sleep**” and “**death**” and “**following Him**”.

In order to “**follow Jesus**” we need to discover what the **Bible** says about the subjects of: “**death**” and “**sleep**”. Since the parable used the word “**dead**”, we will use the Concordance to look up **Bible texts** that talk about the “**dead**” in order to learn more about that subject.

THE BIBLE CONCEPT OF DEATH

WHAT IS DEATH LIKE?

BIBLE TEXT	COMMENT
<p style="text-align: center;">James 2</p> <p>26 For as the body without the <u>spirit</u> is dead, so faith without works is dead also.</p>	<p><i>The body without the spirit is dead</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Job 27</p> <p>3 All the while my breath is in me, and the <u>spirit</u> of God is in my nostrils;</p>	<p><i>The <u>SPIRIT</u> is the BREATH (Heb. Ruwach / Greek-Pneuma - breath)</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Genesis 2</p> <p>7 And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a <u>living</u> soul.</p>	<p><i>The soul is the combination of breath and body. Dust + breath = Living soul Body + breath = Living soul</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Psalm 22</p> <p>29 All they that be fat upon earth shall eat and worship: all they that go down to the dust shall bow before him: and <u>none can keep alive his own soul</u>.</p>	<p><i>None can keep alive his own soul</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Ezekiel 18</p> <p>20 <u>The soul</u> that sinneth, <u>it shall die</u>. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.</p>	<p><i>Souls are <u>not immortal</u> but die</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Revelation 16</p> <p>3 And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and <u>every living soul died</u> in the sea.</p>	<p><i>A soul can even refer to a fish, (a <u>soul</u> just means "a living, breathing creature" Heb - Nephesh/ Greek Psuche)</i></p>

BIBLE TEXT	COMMENT
<p style="text-align: center;">Ecclesiastes 3</p> <p>19 For <u>that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts</u>; even one thing befalleth them: <u>as the one dieth, so dieth the other</u>; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity.</p> <p>20 <u>All go unto one place</u>; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.</p>	<p><i>A man dies just like an animal and they both "go" to the same place, the grave.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Ecclesiastes 9</p> <p>5 For the living know that they shall die: but <u>the dead know not any thing</u>, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.</p> <p>6 Also <u>their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished</u>; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun.</p> <p>10 Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is <u>no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest</u>.</p>	<p><i>When a person dies, they know nothing. They have no reward, nor memory, nor love, nor hate, nor work, nor knowledge, in the grave.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Psalms 146</p> <p>4 His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day <u>his thoughts perish</u>.</p>	<p><i>When the breath leaves the body the thoughts perish or cease.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Ecclesiastes 12</p> <p>7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.</p>	<p><i>The spirit, or breath returns to God at death. The body turns to dust, and waits in the grave.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Job 17</p> <p>13 If I wait, the grave is mine house: I have made my bed in the darkness.</p> <p>16 They shall go down to the bars of the pit, when our rest together is in the dust.</p>	<p><i>Until the Resurrection Day, The grave, or "pit" is our "house"</i></p>

BIBLE TEXT	COMMENT
<p style="text-align: center;">John 5</p> <p>28 Marvel not at this: for the <u>hour is coming</u>, in the which <u>all that are in the graves shall hear his voice</u>, 29 And shall come forth: they that have done good, unto <u>the resurrection of life</u>; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.</p>	<p><i>None of those who are in the graves will <u>hear</u> the <u>voice</u> of Jesus <u>until</u> they <u>hear his voice</u> at His <u>Second Coming</u> which <u>resurrects</u> them.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Daniel 12</p> <p>2 And many of them that <u>sleep</u> in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.</p>	<p><i>Daniel called <u>death</u> a <u>sleep</u>.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Job 14</p> <p>12 So <u>man lieth down</u>, and <u>riseth not</u>: <u>till the heavens be no more</u>, <u>they shall not awake</u>, nor be raised <u>out of their sleep</u>. 14 If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time <u>will I wait</u>, <u>till my change come</u>.</p>	<p><i>The dead will remain in their graves, "asleep" until the appointed time, the resurrection day, <u>They will stay in their graves "till the heavens be no more"</u>.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Revelation 6</p> <p>14 And <u>the heaven departed as a scroll</u> when it is rolled together: and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.</p>	<p><i>The second coming of Christ will be the day when <u>"heaven departs as a scroll."</u></i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">I Thessalonians 4</p> <p>16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the <u>dead in Christ shall rise first</u>: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.</p>	<p><i>At Christ's second coming the righteous dead will be resurrected and caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.</i></p>

BIBLE TEXT	COMMENT
<p>I Corinthians 15</p> <p>20 But now is <u>Christ risen</u> from the dead, and become the <u>firstfruits</u> of <u>them</u> that <u>slept</u>.</p> <p>21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.</p> <p>22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be <u>made alive</u>.</p> <p>23 But every man in his own order: <u>Christ the firstfruits</u>: afterwards <u>they</u> that are Christ's at his coming.</p>	<p><i>The righteous dead "<u>shall be made alive</u>" at his coming.</i></p>
<p>I Corinthians 15</p> <p>51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but <u>we shall all be changed</u>.</p> <p>52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for <u>the trumpet shall sound</u>, and the <u>dead shall be raised</u> incorruptible, and we shall be changed.</p> <p>53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and <u>this mortal must put on immortality</u>.</p> <p>54 So <u>when</u> this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and <u>this mortal shall have put on immortality</u>, <u>then</u> shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, <u>Death is swallowed up in victory</u>.</p>	<p><i>When Christ comes the second time <u>mortal man</u> will <u>put on immortality</u>. Death will be conquered at last.</i></p>
<p>Isaiah 38</p> <p>18 For the <u>grave cannot praise thee</u>, death cannot celebrate thee: they that go down into the pit cannot hope for thy truth.</p> <p>19 <u>The living, the living</u>, he shall <u>praise thee</u>, as I do this day: the father to the children shall <u>make known thy truth</u>.</p>	<p><i>Now is our <u>probationary period</u> to love, serve, and praise the Lord. <u>Now is the time to learn God's truth</u>, while we are <u>alive</u>. <u>The dead cannot hope for the truth</u></i></p>

We have just learned some amazing things from the Bible concerning **“death”** or the **“dead”**!

The Bible compares **death** to **sleep**. When someone is **“asleep”** they have **no knowledge of anything** that is going on around them. That is what the Bible says **“death”** is like, **no knowledge of anything**.

The **Bibles** concept of **“death”** is completely different from the **popular** concept about **“death”**, which teaches that we **have knowledge** of things going on around us after we die.

The “main theme” of this parable is **“following Jesus”** and the subject is **“death”**.

Let’s see what **Jesus** believed about **“death”**, so that we can **“follow Him”**.

John 11:11-14

11 These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus **sleepeth**: but I go, that I may awake him out of **sleep**.

12 Then said his disciples, Lord, if he **sleep**, he shall do well.

13 Howbeit Jesus spake of his **death**: but they thought that he had spoken of taking rest in **sleep**.

14 Then **said Jesus** unto them plainly, Lazarus is **dead**.

Thus, **Jesus** believed and taught that **“death”** is like **sleep**, which **agrees** with the **Bible** as we have just seen.

If we are going to **“follow Jesus”**, then it is clear that **we must believe** that **“death”** is like **“sleep”**!

Now, we can see the “connection” between the man saying he would **“follow Jesus”**, and the Lords answer of **“not where to lay his head”**, or as we would say, **“no place to sleep”**.

Jesus was telling the man:

Paraphrase:

If you want to **Physically** “follow me” I must tell you that I have no “**place**” for Physical “**sleep**”.

If you want to **Spiritually** “follow me” I must tell you that I have no “**place**” (heaven or hell) for Spr. “**sleep**” (**death**).

Thus, **Jesus** is in perfect agreement with the **Bible** that when we **die** we don’t “**go**” any “**place**”, we simply “**wait in the grave**”, as Job says. (Job 17:13)

As we have seen, in the first part of this parable, **Jesus** is **teaching** about **Physical death** and

what happens to a person when they **Physically die**.

Now let’s look at the second part of the parable.

Matthew 8:21-22

21 And another of his disciples said unto him, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.

22 But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead.

In the second part of this parable a man wants to **bury his Physically dead** father, before he is willing to “**follow Jesus**”. Jesus said to him “**Follow me** and let the **dead bury their dead**”.

Since it is **impossible** for a **Physically dead** person to **bury** another **Physically dead** person, then the only possible explanation for the answer that Jesus gave, is that Jesus was trying to turn the man’s attention from **Physical death** to **Spiritual death**.

To Paraphrase the words of Jesus:

Follow me and let those that are **Spiritually dead**, bury those that are **Physically dead**.

We have just discovered what **Jesus** and the **Bible** say that **Physical death** is like.

Now we need to discover what the Bible says about a person that is **Spiritually dead**. In order to do this we will again use a Concordance and look up the word "**dead**", but this time we are looking for the **Spiritual** meaning of the word.

I Timothy 5:6

But she that liveth in pleasure is **dead** while she **liveth**.

(When a person is living in **sin**, they are considered "**dead**" by God.)

Luke 15:10,21-24

10 Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one **sinner** that **repenteth**.

21 And the son said unto him, Father I have **sinned** against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

22 But the father said to his servants, bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand and shoes on his feet:

23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry:

24 For this my son was **dead**, and is **alive** again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

(When a person "**repents**" of their **sin** and returns to God. they are considered "**alive**" by God.)

II Corinthians 5:14,15,17

14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one **died** for **all**, then were all **dead**:

15 And that he died for all, that they which **live** should **not** henceforth **live unto themselves**, but **unto him** which died for them, and rose again.

17 Therefore if any man be **in Christ**, he is a **new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

(Since **all** have **sinned**, then we were **all Spiritually dead** until Jesus died for us. We now have a chance to become **Spiritually “alive”** if we **accept Jesus** as our **Saviour**.)

Ephesians 2:4-5

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

5 Even when we were **dead** in sins, hath **quickened** us together with Christ, (by **grace** ye are saved;)

(Through the **grace** of God we can be made **Spiritually “alive”** and be saved.)

Colossians 2:12-13

12 **Buried** with him **in baptism**, wherein also ye are **risen** with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

13 And you being **dead** in your **sins** and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having **forgiven you** all trespasses;

(We are Spiritually **“buried”** with Jesus through baptism and our **sins** are **forgiven**! Then, we are **Spiritually”** made **“alive”** or resurrected with Jesus to begin a **new life** for Him.)

Thus, a person who is **Spiritually “dead”** is anyone who has never given their heart to the Lord and been forgiven their sins and made **Spiritually “alive”**.

Conclusion:

Now let us return to the parable to look at it one last time.

Matthew 8:21-22

21 And another of his disciples said unto him, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.

22 But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead.

Luke 9:59-60

59 And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.

60 Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and **preach** the kingdom of God.

When we compare the words of Matthew with the words of Luke, we discover Luke adds the words of Jesus to:

“Go and **preach** the kingdom of God.”

Putting this additional piece of information together with what we have already learned, we can give a paraphrase.

Final Paraphrase:

And he said to him “Follow me”. But he said, Lord let me first go and bury my father. Then Jesus said to him, Let those who are **lost** or **Spiritually “dead”** bury those who are **Physically “dead”**; but go and **preach** to those who are **Spiritually “dead”** so that they can become **Spiritually “alive”**. It’s too late for your father because he is **Physically “dead”** and has no knowledge of anything going on around him, but it’s not too late for those who are **Spiritually “dead”**, who are still **Physically alive** and can still learn the truth that can save them.

Doctrinal Truth (Taught by **Jesus** in the Parable “Let the Dead bury the Dead”)

1. The Main Theme of this parable is to **Follow Jesus**.
2. The subject of the parable, that suggests that we follow Jesus concerns the condition of a person when they are “**dead**”.
3. Since the main theme is to “**follow Jesus**”, the implication is that **most people will not** “follow Jesus” when it comes to understanding the **condition** of the **dead**.
4. The Bible clearly states that **Jesus** believed “**death**” to be like “**sleep**”. When a person is “**asleep**” they have **no knowledge of anything** that is going on around them.
5. The Bible writers **agree** with Jesus and clearly state that “**death**” is like “**sleep**” and that there is “**no knowledge, nor wisdom in the grave**”.
6. The Bible says that the “**spirit**” is simply the “**breath**” and that the combination of “**breath**” and “**body**” make a “**living soul**”.
7. The Bible says that “**none can keep alive his own soul**”. It also says that the “**soul**” that sinneth, it shall **die**”. Thus, the **Bible** teaches that “**souls**” are **not immortal**, but simply **living people** who can lose the **breath** of life and **die**.
8. The Bible says that there is **no difference** between the way a “**beast**” or a “**man**” **dies**. They **all** have “one breath” and **all** go to the same place, the **grave**.

9. **All** those that are **dead** remain in their **graves** until the **resurrection day**.

10. At the 2nd Coming of Jesus, “those that are **Christ’s**” will be resurrected and given the **gift of immortality**.

11. Besides knowing the condition of man when he is **Physically dead**, Jesus wanted us to know the condition of man when he is **Spiritually dead**.

12. When a person is living in **sin**, they are considered **Spiritually dead** by God.

13. When a person **repents** of their sin and turns to God, through the **grace** of God they are **forgiven**.

14. They are **Spiritually “buried”** with Jesus through **baptism** and their **sins** are “**washed away**” and **forgiven**.

15. Then, they are **Spiritually “made alive”** by **resurrection** with Jesus to a **New Life** for Him.

The Parable of:

The

“Missing Bridegroom”

(Jesus is Coming Back)

The Parable of:

“The Missing Bridegroom” (Matthew 9:14,15)

Matthew 9:14,15

14 Then came to him the disciples of John saying, why do we and the Pharisees fast oft, but **thy** disciples **fast** not?

15 And Jesus said unto them, can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the **bridegroom** is with them? but the days will come, when the **bridegroom** shall be **taken** from them, and then shall **they fast**.

Comments:

In this parable, **Jesus** implies that **He** is the “**bridegroom**” and his **disciples** are the “**children of the bridechamber**”. He also said that the “**bridegroom**” would be “**taken**” from them and then, “**mourning and fasting**” would occur. Thus, **Jesus** was telling them that **He** would be “**taken**” from them and then his **disciples** would “**mourn and fast**”.

Let's see what the **Bible** associates "**mourning** and **fasting**" with by comparing Scripture.

Mourn

II Samuel 1:12

12 And they **mourned**, and wept and **fasted** until even, for Saul, and for Jonathan his son, and for the people of the Lord and for the house of Israel; because they were **fallen** by the sword.

II Samuel 11:26

26 And when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was **dead**, she **mourned** for her husband.

(Thus, "**mourning** and **fasting**" were associated with someones **death**.)

Jesus said the bridegroom would be "**taken**" from them. Let's see what the **Bible** means when it uses the word "**taken**".

Taken (First meaning)

Acts 8:32,33

32 The place of the Scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:

33 In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his **life** was **taken** from the earth.

Matthew 24:39

39 And knew not until the flood came and **took** them all away;

(Thus, the Bible uses the word "**taken**" in the sense of "losing ones life" or being "put to death".)

Taken (Second meaning)

II Kings 2:9,11

9 And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, ask what I shall do for thee, before I be **taken** away from thee.

11 And it came to pass,...that, behold,there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire...and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

Acts 1:11

11 Which also said, ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same **Jesus**, which is **taken** up from you into heaven, shall **so come** in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Thus, the Bible uses the word “**taken**” to also mean “being removed” or “going away”, in this case to heaven.

Conclusion: 1

When Jesus said the “**bridegroom**” would be “**taken**” from them, He was saying that, **He** (bridegroom) would be **put to death** (**taken** from them) and that then his **disciples** would “**mourn and fast**”.

Thus, Jesus was predicting **His death** in this parable!

Conclusion: 2

When Jesus said the “**bridegroom**” would be “**taken**” from them, He was also saying that **He** (bridegroom) would “go away” (be **taken**) or **leave them** for awhile as He returned to heaven and this would cause them to be “**sad** and to **fast**”.

Comments:

Since Jesus implied that **He** was the **bridegroom** in this parable, we need to see what the Bible says about the “**bridegroom**”, by comparing Scripture.

Bridegroom

Isaiah 62:5

5 For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee: and as the **bridegroom** rejoiceth over the **bride**, so shall thy **God** rejoice over **thee**.

John 3:29

He that hath the **bride** is the **bridegroom**....

Revelation 19:7

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the **marriage** of the **Lamb** is come, and **his wife** hath made herself ready.

II Corinthians 11:2

For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused **you** to one **husband**, that I may present **you** as a **chaste virgin** to **Christ**.

(Thus the Bible says that **Jesus Christ** is the **Bridegroom** and the **Church** is the **bride** just as Jesus implied in the parable)

By using the word "**Bridegroom**" in this parable, Jesus was establishing the fact that a "**marriage or wedding**" was to take place in the future between **Himself** and **His people**. Also through the use of the word "**Bridegroom**", Jesus gives us **Hope** that He will **come again for us**.

Matthew 25:6,10

6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold the **bridegroom cometh**; go ye out to meet him.

10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

Through the illustration of a **wedding or marriage**, Jesus shows **His Great Love** for us and the **deep love relationship** that **we** are to have **with Him**. The word "**bridegroom**" connects this **love** with our **Hope** for **Salvation!**

Isaiah 61:10

10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for **he** hath **clothed me** with the garments of **salvation**, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a **bridegroom** decketh himself with ornaments, and as a **bride** adorneth herself with her jewels.

Conclusions:

By telling the parable of the **Bridegroom** to be “**taken**” away, Jesus was able to convey several important **truths** to His listeners.

1. He was able to tell them of His **death** which was soon to take place.
2. He was able to show His **love** for them through the marriage relationship of the **Bridegroom** and His **Bride**.
3. He was able to tell them that He would have to **leave them** and return to heaven, but just like a **Bridegroom** coming for **His Bride**, **Jesus would come again** for His **people**.

Comments:

The Bible has clearly shown us that the parable of the “**Bridegroom** being **taken**” is associated with the **death** of Jesus and his **leaving** or returning to heaven. The parable thus invites us to learn more about both his **death** and his “returning” or “**coming again**”.

Since we have already learned about “death” from the parable of “Let the dead bury the dead”, we will focus on the “**coming again**” of **Jesus** and see what the **Bible** says about that event.

By using the Concordance we will be able to find texts of Scripture that pertain to the return or second coming of Jesus.

The Bible Concept Of: The Return or **Second Coming** Of Jesus

BIBLE TEXT	COMMENT
John 14:1-3 ... "I go to prepare a place for you." ... " <u>I will come again</u> and receive you unto myself that where I am ye may be also."	<i>The promise of Jesus to <u>come again</u> for us.</i>
Luke 24:51 51 "And it came to pass while he blessed them, he was parted from them and carried up into heaven."	<i>Jesus went to heaven after His resurrection.</i>
Acts 1:9-11 ... While they <u>beheld</u> he was taken up and a cloud received him... ye men of Galilee... <u>this same Jesus</u> which is <u>taken</u> up from you into heaven, shall so come in <u>like manner</u> as ye have seen <u>him</u> go into heaven."	<i>The <u>manner</u> that Jesus <u>went to heaven</u> as <u>observed</u> by the disciples.</i>
Matthew 24:30,31 "... They shall see the <u>Son of man</u> coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trump, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.	<i>The <u>manner</u> that Jesus will <u>come again</u>.</i>
Revelation 1:7 "Behold he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him."	<i>All will see Jesus come.</i>
Matthew 24:27 "For as the <u>lightning</u> cometh out of the East and shineth even to the West, so shall also the <u>coming of the Son of man</u> <u>be</u> ."	<i>Manner or way that Jesus will come (<u>Visible</u> as the lightning)</i>

The Return or **Second Coming** Of Jesus

BIBLE TEXT	COMMENT
<p>Matthew 24:37-41 "But <u>as the days of Noe were</u>, so shall also the <u>coming of the Son of man</u> be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until <u>the flood came</u>, and <u>took them all away</u>; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field, the <u>one shall be taken</u>, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one <u>shall be taken</u>, and the other left..."</p>	<p><i>As the <u>flood</u> came and "took" the wicked away, so when Jesus comes the wicked will be "taken" in <u>death</u> again.</i></p>
<p>I Thessalonians 4:16,17 "For the <u>Lord himself shall descend from heaven</u> with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are <u>alive and remain</u> shall be <u>caught up together</u> with them in the clouds, <u>to meet the Lord</u> in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."</p>	<p><i>The <u>righteous</u> will "<u>remain</u>" or be left alive when Jesus comes while the wicked will be slain.</i></p>
<p>Luke 17:29,30 34-37 "But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day <u>when the Son of man is revealed</u>... I tell you, in that night there shall be two in one bed; the <u>one shall be taken</u> and the <u>other left</u>. ... Two shall be in the field; the <u>one shall be taken</u>, and the <u>other left</u>. And they answered and said unto him, where Lord? and he said unto them, <u>Wheresoever the body is</u>, thither will the <u>eagles be gathered together</u>."</p>	<p><i>The destruction of the wicked when Jesus comes will be like the destruction of Sodom: by fire from heaven.</i></p> <p><i>The body of the wicked taken in death will be where the <u>eagles</u> are.</i></p>
<p>Matthew 24:27,28 "For as the lightning cometh out of the East and shineth even to the West so shall also the <u>coming of the Son of man</u> be. <u>For wheresoever the carcass is</u>, there will the <u>eagles be gathered together</u>."</p>	<p><i>The <u>eagles</u> will gather where the carcasses of the wicked are.</i></p>

BIBLE TEXT	COMMENT
<p>Revelation 19:16-18 "And I saw <u>heaven opened</u> and behold a white horse and He that sat upon him was called <u>Faithful and True</u>, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war...And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh <u>a name written</u>, <u>King of Kings</u> and <u>Lord of Lords</u>.</p> <p>And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, <u>saying to all the fowls</u> that fly in the midst of heaven, come and <u>gather yourselves together</u> unto the supper of the great God: that ye may <u>eat the flesh of kings</u>, and the <u>flesh of captains</u>, and the <u>flesh of mighty men</u>..."</p>	<p><i>The wicked will be food for the birds (<u>eagles</u>).</i></p>
<p>Revelation 6:14-17 "...<u>Every mountain and island were moved</u> out of their places," ...the <u>kings of the earth</u>...the <u>great men</u>, the <u>rich</u>...the <u>mighty</u>...<u>hid themselves</u> in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains and said... <u>fall on us and hide us</u> from the face of him who sitteth in the throne, and from the <u>wrath</u> of the Lamb for the <u>Great Day of his wrath is come</u> and who shall be able to stand?"</p>	<p><i><u>Manner of Jesus coming</u></i></p> <p><i>(<u>visible to the wicked</u>)</i></p> <p><i>(Great physical changes to the earth)</i></p>
<p>II Thessalonians 1:7-10 "...the Lord Jesus shall be <u>revealed</u> from heaven with his mighty angels, <u>in flaming fire</u> taking <u>vengeance</u> on them that know not God ...who shall be punished with <u>everlasting destruction</u> from the presence of the Lord ...when <u>He shall come</u> to be glorified in his saints..."</p>	<p><i>The <u>manner of Jesus coming</u> and <u>what happens to the wicked</u> and God's people at His coming.</i></p>
<p>I Thessalonians 4:16,17 "...the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a <u>shout</u>, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God and the dead in <u>Christ shall rise first</u>: Then <u>we which are alive and remain</u> shall be <u>caught up together with them</u> in the clouds, <u>to meet the Lord in the air</u> and so shall we ever be with the Lord."</p>	<p><i>The <u>manner of Jesus coming</u> and <u>how we meet Him</u>: (In the <u>air</u>, not on the earth).</i></p>

BIBLE TEXT	COMMENT
<p>I Corinthians 15:22,23 "...As in Adam all die even so <u>in Christ shall all be made alive</u>. But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; <u>afterward they that are Christ's at his coming</u>."</p>	<p><i>At the coming of Christ the righteous dead will receive life again.</i></p>
<p>I Corinthians 15:51-54 "Behold, I show you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all <u>be changed, in a moment</u>, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, <u>and the dead shall be raised incorruptable</u>, and we shall be changed. ... this <u>mortal must put on immortality</u>."</p>	<p><i>At the trump of God, <u>the righteous will be given immortality</u>.</i></p>
<p>Matthew 25:13 <u>"Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh."</u></p>	<p><i><u>Be ready always for Jesus to come.</u></i></p>
<p>Matthew 24:44 <u>"Therefore be ye also ready for in such and hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh."</u></p>	<p><i>Jesus will come <u>unexpectedly</u>.</i></p>
<p>II Peter 3:10,12 <u>"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."</u></p>	<p><i>When Jesus comes as a <u>thief</u> there will be <u>a loud noise and great heat</u> which will burn the earth and the heavens. (It will not be an <u>invisible coming</u>).</i></p>

Conclusions (Regarding the Second Coming of Jesus)

1. Jesus was taken up in the clouds and He will **return** in the clouds in like manner.
2. People **saw** Jesus go into heaven and they will **see** Him when He returns from heaven.
3. Every eye will **see** Jesus when He comes in the clouds.
4. The coming of Jesus will be as **visible** as the lightning from East to West.
5. When Jesus comes the **wicked** will be "**taken**" in **death** just like the wicked were "taken" in death by the **flood** during Noahs time.
6. The wicked will be destroyed or "taken" in death by **fire and brimstone from heaven**, just like the wicked were destroyed in Sodom and Gomorrah.
7. The bodies or carcasses of the wicked will become food for the birds.
8. There will be great **physical changes** to the **earth** when Jesus comes. Every island and mountain will be moved out of place.
9. When Jesus comes, not only will we **see** Him, but we will **hear** Him **shout** and we will **hear** the "trump" or trumpet of God.
10. At the Second Coming of Jesus the "**dead in Christ**" will be "**made alive**" and caught up together with the **living righteous** to meet the Lord **in the air**.
11. No one will know the day nor hour when Jesus will come again and so we must always be ready.

Doctrinal Truth (Taught by **Jesus** in the Parable of "The Missing Bridegroom")

1. Jesus is the Bridegroom and the Church is the Bride.
2. The "missing Bridegroom" represents two different events:
 1. The **death** of Jesus which would take Him away from His disciples.
 2. The **leaving** of Jesus for heaven which would take Him away from the Church.
3. By using the illustration of a **Bridegroom** and **Bride**, Jesus showed His Great Love for us through the wedding or **marriage relationship**.
4. The Bridegroom **coming** for His Bride helps us understand how **Jesus** will **come again** for **His people**.
5. The coming again of Jesus is clearly outlined in the Bible with regard to **how** He will come and how His coming affects both the righteous and the wicked.
6. Jesus **went** to heaven in the clouds and He will come again in the clouds.
7. When Jesus left for heaven people **saw** Him **leave** and **every eye** will **see** Him come again.
8. When Jesus comes again there will be **great physical changes** to the **earth** like islands and mountains being moved.

(continued on next page)

9. When Jesus comes again we will **hear** Him **shout** and the **trumpet** of God will sound.

10. When Jesus comes again the wicked will be slain or “**taken**” in **death** and their **bodies** will become food for the birds.

11. When Jesus comes again the righteous will “**remain**” or be **left alive** and the righteous dead will be “made alive” or resurrected.

12. When Jesus comes again both the living righteous and the resurrected righteous will be “**changed** in the twinkling of an eye” and they will be **given immortality**.

13. The living righteous and the resurrected righteous will be “caught up together” and they will “meet the Lord **in the air**”. This clearly shows that Jesus does **not** set His foot on the earth at His Second Coming.

Thus, anyone **claiming** to be Christ and walking on this earth is a **false Christ**.

14. No one will know the **time** when Jesus will come again and so we must always be ready.

The Parable of:
***“The Man Without a
Wedding Garment”***

(How to Pass the Judgment)

The Parable of:

"The Man Without a Wedding Garment"

(Matthew 22:1-14)

Matthew 22:1-14 And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said,

2 The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain **king**, which made a **marriage** for his **son**,

3 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the **wedding**: and they would not come.

4 Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: **come** unto the **marriage**.

5 But **they** made light of it, and went their ways, one to his **farm**, another to his **merchandise**:

6 And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and **slew** them.

7 But when the **king** heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

8 Then saith he to his servants, The **wedding** is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.

9 Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the **marriage**.

10 So those **servants** went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both **bad** and **good**: and the wedding was furnished with guests.

11 And when the **king** came in to **see** the guests, he saw there a **man** which had not on a wedding garment:

12 And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless.

13 Then said the **king** to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

14 For **many** are called, but **few** are chosen.

Comments:

The important points in this parable are as follows:

1. The *main theme* is the **wedding** or **marriage** of the King's Son.
2. An invitation to come to the wedding was given to a first group of people.
3. The first group of people rejected the marriage invitation.
4. The reason for the rejection of the invitation by the first group of people was that they were only interested in **their own business** (farming, buying, and selling) instead of the **King's business!**
5. The King sent his servants a second time to invite the first group of people, but they mistreated and killed the King's servants.
6. The King's patience came to an **end** and he rendered **judgment** upon the first group of people for their wicked deeds.
7. The King then sent his servants to invite anyone, good or bad, to the wedding.
8. After a while, the King **investigated** or inspected those attending the wedding to see what they were **wearing**.
9. The King found a man who was **not** wearing a wedding garment.
10. The King gave the man an opportunity to explain why, but the man had no answer.
11. The King then **judged** the man as **not fit** to attend the **wedding** and had him "cast into outer darkness".
12. The final result of the parable is that **many** will be "called" or invited to the wedding, but only a **few** will be **accepted**.

Comparing Scripture:

In order to understand more about this parable, we need to identify the **real objects** and then discover their Spiritual meanings by comparing Scripture.

The **real objects** are:

- The King
- The Son
- The first servants of the king
- Those first invited to the wedding
- Those later invited to the wedding
- The later servants of the king
- The wedding garment
- The wedding

The King

We know that the Spiritual “**King**” represents **God** or the **Father**.

Psalm 44:4 “Thou art my **King**, O **God**...”

The Son

We also know that the Spiritual “**Son**” represents **Jesus**.

John 20:31 “But these are written, that ye might believe that **Jesus** is the Christ, the **Son of God**; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”

The “First Servants” of the King

The **first** Spiritual “servants” represent the **prophets** that were sent to the people of Israel.

Amos 3:7 “Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his **servants** the **prophets**.”

Those “First Invited” to the Wedding

Those that were “**first invited**” to the wedding were the **people of Israel**.

Matthew 21:43,45 “Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. ... And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them.”

Those “Later Invited” to the Wedding

Those that were “**later invited**” to the wedding were the “**Gentiles**” or “**strangers**”.

Matthew 21:43 “Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you [Israel], and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.”

1 Peter 2:9,10 “But **ye** are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an **holy nation**... Which in time past were **not a people**, but are **now** the people of God...”

Romans 9:24,25 “Even **us**, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the **Gentiles**? As he saith ... I will call them **my people**, which were not **my people**...”

The “Later Servants” of the King

The later Spiritual “servants” represent the **apostles** and **teachers** sent to the “Gentiles”.

1 Peter 1:1 “Peter, an **apostle** of Jesus Christ, to the **strangers** scattered throughout...”

2 Timothy 2:2 “And the things that thou hast heard of me [Apostle Paul] among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to **teach** others also.”

The Wedding Garment

The Spiritual “**Wedding Garment**” represents the “**garment of Salvation**” or the **robe of Christ’s Righteousness**.

Isaiah 61:10 “I will greatly rejoice in the LORD... for he hath clothed me with the **garments of salvation**, he hath covered me with the **robe of righteousness**, as a **bridegroom**...”

The Wedding

The Spiritual “**Wedding**” or “**Marriage**” represents the **Judgment**.

Job 29:14 “I put on **righteousness**, and it clothed me: my **judgment** was as a **robe** and a diadem.”

The above text clearly shows the relationship of the “**robe of righteousness**” or the “**wedding garment**” to the **judgment**. The “robe” or “wedding garment” was directly connected to being **judged**!

The man in the parable **without** the “robe” or “wedding garment” could **not pass** the **judgment** and was “taken away and cast into outer darkness”.

Psalm 35:24 “**Judge me**, O Lord, according to **thy righteousness**.”

Without the covering “robe of Christ’s Righteousness”, **no one** can pass the **judgment** of God!

Comments:

Before we are ready to write a Spiritual paraphrase of the parable, we need to think about what is happening at a “**wedding**” or “**marriage**”.

A **wedding** or **marriage** takes place when a man and woman who have had a relationship together decide that they want to “**live together**” forever!

Similarly, a spiritual “**wedding**” or spiritual “**marriage**” takes place when a spiritual “Man” (Jesus) and a spiritual “woman” (the Church) decide that they want to “**live together**” forever!

The “**Judgment**” seals their commitment to each other forever, just as a “**marriage**” does!

That is why the “**wedding**” or “**marriage**” represents the **Judgment**.

Sometimes, even after a long relationship, a man and woman decide that they do **not** want to get **married** or have a “**wedding**”, because they do not want to “**live together**” forever. Sometimes a woman will **reject** a man’s proposal of marriage. The Bible says that the Lord is the “husband” and the “woman” represents **God’s people**.

Isaiah 54:5,6 “For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name... For the LORD hath called thee as a woman... and a wife...”

The Bible also refers to the **Lord** as the “**Bridegroom**” and **God’s people** as the “**Bride**”.

Isaiah 62:5 “For as a young man **marrieth** a virgin, so shall thy sons **marry thee**: and as the **bridegroom** rejoiceth over the **bride**, so shall thy **God** rejoice over **thee**.”

In the parable, the **first group** of people invited to the “wedding” was the **Jews or Israel**. They represented God’s people (the Bride) who **rejected** the proposal of marriage by the **Lord Jesus** (the Bridegroom).

Because they rejected Jesus, the **nation of Israel** was **judged** by God and rejected by Him (Matt. 21:43,45). No longer was **Israel** to be the “chosen people of God”. God then invited “**anyone**” to “marry His Son” and the **Gentiles** became the “chosen people of God”. (1 Peter 2:9,10; Rom. 9:24,25)

The parable clearly shows that the “Gentiles” (the later group invited to the wedding) would also have people who would **reject** Jesus Christ’s offer of “marriage” by **rejecting** His robe of righteousness, or the “wedding garment”! These people will be **judged** by their righteousness (filthy rags – Isa. 64:6) instead of Christ’s righteousness and they will be “cast out” or **lost** instead of being **saved**.

The parable of the “Man Without a Wedding Garment” clearly shows the absolute necessity of being “**clothed**” with **Christ’s righteousness** in order to be saved! Now, we are ready to write a Spiritual paraphrase of the parable.

Paraphrase (Spiritual):

God (the king) wanted *Jesus* (His Son) to be able to *live together forever* (make a marriage) with *His people* (the bride or woman). He sent *prophets* (His servants) to invite *Israel* (first group invited) to accept His Son Jesus, but they **rejected** Him. *God* (the King) then sent *more prophets* (his servants) to tell them that *it was time* (all things were ready) for the *Judgment* (marriage) to take place, but they were too busy with their *own business* (farming, buying, selling) to be concerned. The *prophets* (servants) were mistreated and *killed* (slew them) by Israel. Finally, God’s patience and forgiveness was *at an end* (he was wroth)! He judged the **nation** of Israel as “not worthy” and *sent the Roman army* (sent forth his armies) under Titus in A.D. 70 to “*burn up the city*” of Jerusalem and to “destroy those murderers”.

Then *God* (the king) made the decision to invite the *Gentiles* (anyone, good and bad) to come and “*live together*” with *His Son forever* (be married). After a while, *God* (the king) began to *investigate* (came in to see) what those who had *come to “live with His Son forever”* (come to the wedding) were wearing. *God* (the king) saw a man who was not clothed with the *Robe of Christ’s righteousness* (wedding garment). The man was instead clothed in *filthy rags* (his own righteousness – Zech. 3:1-5, Isa. 64:6). The man had **no reason** for not having the *robe of Christ’s righteousness* on (wedding garment) and so *God judged the man as lost* (take him away and cast him into outer darkness)! **Many** people are *invited* (called) to *live forever with Jesus* (marry Him), but only a **few** will actually “*marry Him*” (pass the judgment).

Doctrinal Truth (Taught by Jesus in the Parable of "The Man Without a Wedding Garment")

1. The "wedding" or "marriage" represents the **Judgment**.
2. Before a man and woman get (physically) married, they have developed a relationship to the point of wanting to "live together" forever! Similarly, the **Judgment** represented by the "marriage" or "wedding" occurs when the **Lord** as the (spiritual) Bridegroom and God's **people** as the (spiritual) bride, have developed their relationship to the point that they both want to "live together" forever.
3. Sometimes in a (physical) relationship a man and woman decide that they do **not** want to get married and "live together forever". The woman will **reject** the "invitation" or **proposal** of marriage by the man. Similarly, sometimes in a (spiritual) relationship between the **Lord** (man) and His **people** (woman), individuals or even nations will **reject** the "invitation" or proposal of marriage by the Lord.
4. When an "invitation" or proposal of marriage is made and then **rejected**, it causes a **permanent separation** to occur between a man and woman. Similarly, when an "invitation" or proposal of marriage is made by the Lord (man) and then **rejected** by one of His people (woman), it causes a **permanent separation** to occur between the Lord (man) and that person (woman). The "marriage" or **judgment** will **permanently** decide the destiny or future of **every** individual.

5. Those who **accept** the “invitation” by the Lord to “marry Him” will live forever with Him!
6. Those who **reject** the “invitation” by the Lord and **refuse** to “marry Him” will be lost forever!
7. God has “invited” **everyone** to the “marriage” of His Son. Whether you are “good” or “bad” doesn’t matter; you are still invited to become His “bride”!
8. We are to “come to the marriage” just as we are (bad or good). Even the “**best garment**” that we could provide for ourselves will **not** be “good enough” for us to attend the “**wedding**”.
9. The “garment” that **we** could provide for ourselves represents our “**works**”. Our works are like **filthy garments** or “**filthy rags**”!
10. The “garment” that **we need** is the special “wedding garment” that is provided at the marriage. Only the “wedding garment” will make us **acceptable** at the wedding!
11. The “wedding garment” represents the **righteous life** of Jesus! Another name for the “wedding garment” is the “**Robe of righteousness**” or the “**Garment of Salvation**”.
12. If we choose to attend the “marriage” **without** the “wedding garment”, we can expect to be “cast out” and **rejected** at the time of the “marriage”.
Similarly, if we choose to be judged by our **own** “**works**” or sinful lives, we can expect to be “cast out” and **rejected** and lost at time of the judgment!

13. If we choose to attend the “marriage” and **accept** the “wedding garment” or the “robe of Christ’s righteousness” or the righteous life of Christ in place of our sinful life, we can expect to be **accepted** or **saved** at the time of the Judgment!
14. From our study of the parable of the “garment with the Hole in it” we learned that **accepting** the “new garment” or, as it is called in this parable, the “wedding garment”, means being **willing** to **give up sin** and to **allow** the Holy Spirit to **change** us and make us like Jesus. While we are “becoming like Jesus” and are **not perfect**, we are “covered” by Christ’s **robe of righteousness** (wedding garment) and as far as the **judgment** (marriage) is concerned, we are considered by God (the King) to be **perfect** and therefore are **accepted** by Him.
15. Without the “covering” of the **wedding garment** the man in the parable had **no hope** of being **accepted** at the wedding.
16. Without the “covering” **righteousness of Christ**, we have **no hope** of passing the Judgment!

Final Conclusion:

As we have examined the Parables of Jesus, letting the "Bible explain itself" by comparing the Scriptures, the Doctrines and Teachings of Jesus have **become plain** to us. As we might have suspected, given the repeated warnings of Jesus to "beware of false teachers", the **Doctrines of Jesus** as taught by the **Parables** are quite different from the doctrines taught by most of the Popular Churches today. When thinking about this difference keep in mind the Parable of The Two Men That Built Houses and what their foundations were; **God's Words** (rock) or **man's words** (sand) and you will **know** what to believe!

In this **first volume** of the parables given in the book of Matthew we have covered 13 parables. There are yet more parables to be covered and we will continue our study of them in "Bible **Parables Made Simple**" **Vol.2**.

May God help you to use the knowledge you have gained from the **Parables** to be like "salt that has **not** lost its **Savour**".

William T. Barrett