



WORD OF FAITH INT'L CHRISTIAN CENTER

TEACHING THE WORD. DOING THE WORK. TOUCHING THE WORLD.

The Parables of Jesus, Part 8

by Bishop Keith Butler | Bible Study Notes | Sunday, December 19, 2021

Opening Summary

This is the parable of the householder. In this lesson you will discover keys to understanding this parable. You will find out who Herod was. Also, you will see important truths about the wise men who followed the star to worship Jesus, and the elaborate gifts they gave Him. This lesson elaborates on the role Joseph played in God's plan and how significant it is that he was a man who obeyed God. This parable gives us clues that point us to the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, thus unfolding the real Christmas story.

- I. Mat. 21:33-40: The keys to this parable are as follows:
 - A. *Householder* refers to God, Himself.
 - B. *The vineyard* refers to the finished product of the earth.
 - C. *The husbandman* (the farmer) refers to the Jews.
 - D. *The fruits of the earth* refers to the population of the earth, saved through the Word.
 - E. *The time of fruit* refers to the birth of Jesus.
 - F. *Servants* refer to the Old Testament prophets.
 - G. *Son* refers to Jesus.
 - H. *Slain/slew* refers to the crucifixion.
- II. Mat. 2:1: It's important to know this background.
 - A. Herod was king of Judaea.
 1. In 31 BC, after an earthquake that killed thousands and destroyed many homes and structures, Herod rebuilt better than before to gain popularity with the Jews.
 2. In 20 BC, he rebuilt the temple in a very opulent fashion, according to Jewish law.
 3. Despite it all, he was a terrible person.
 4. He had 10 wives. He killed his favorite one, Miriam.
 5. He was so paranoid that he killed three of his sons.
 6. Understanding Herod helps you understand the parable of the householder.
 - B. The wise men were magi/magicians (not a negative connotation in biblical times).
 1. They came from countries east of Jerusalem, from Persia (Iran), Iraq and Arabia to Jerusalem. Note: Abraham travelled from Iraq (Ur of the Chaldeas).
 2. They were philosophers, priests, astronomers, devoted to astrology, medicine, religion and science.
 3. Jews believed the wise men were prophets because they were descendants of Abraham through his union with Katura.
 4. People had great respect for them and believed they were supernaturally blessed.
- III. Mat. 2:2: The wise men are looking for Jesus to worship Him.
 - A. God is going to guide them with a star that would shine day and night.

- B. Read these events like a newspaper.
 - C. Travelling this distance took time and resources.
 - D. Knowing Who they were looking for, they brought elaborate gifts for Him.
- IV. Mat. 2:3: *Troubled* (Gk.: tarasso) means *stirred up and highly agitated*. The rest of Jerusalem was troubled because they never knew what Herod was going to do.
- A. Mat. 2:4: *Demanded* means *strongly urge*.
 - B. Mat. 2:5-6: The religious leaders' answer came from Micah 5:2.
 - C. Mat. 2:7: He wanted to calculate the child's age.
 - D. Mat. 2:8: Herod is lying and they all knew it.
- V. Mat. 2:9: Note that in Luke 2 the shepherds found Mary and the babe in the manger. They were there to pay their taxes and then leave. At this time, Jesus was now a young child.
- A. Mat. 2:10-11: The star stopped over Jesus' house.
 1. They worshipped Him and presented their treasures to Him.
 2. It doesn't reference Joseph yet, but he has a key role.
 3. Joseph is not Jesus' father. Sin passes through the male seed. Jesus had sinless blood because God was His Father. Only sinless blood could save us.
 4. Mary, a woman of faith, was His mother.
 - B. Worship means to fall down prostrate with the face to the ground.
 - C. When visiting their superiors, it was customary to present them precious gifts.
 - D. *Treasure* is a *receptacle for valuables* (closer to the term used for caskets).
 - E. The magi believe they were going to see the King of kings, so they brought boxes large as caskets that contained gold, frankincense and myrrh. Those gifts furthered God's plan and stifled satan's plan to stop Jesus' mission.
 1. At this time Jesus was a baby who could not protect himself.
 2. Satan always tries to wipe out God's plan in its early stages (Mark 4:14-20).
 3. When you receive a call of God, don't be surprised if everything goes haywire.
 4. Satan is trying to wipe Jesus out.
 5. Mat. 2:12: The wise men were warned in a dream not to return to Herod.
- VI. Mat. 2:13: Joseph was warned in a dream to take the young child to Egypt. God's will is not automatic. Joseph had to obey the angel in order for God's will to come to pass.
- A. The first right God gave man was the freedom to make his own decision (Gen. 2:16-17).
 1. Your rights are not from a government. They are from God.
 2. No man has the right to take your God-given right to choose.
 - B. Mat. 2:13: There's a time to go to a place and a time to leave a place.
 1. Joseph obeyed God. He had a good heart (Mat. 1:19).
 2. When choosing a spouse, ask yourself, will this person obey God?
 3. Joseph's responsibility was to protect the Child.
- VII. Mat. 2:14: Joseph knew they had to live. God had provided gold, frankincense and myrrh.
- A. God uses mankind to provide our needs.
 - B. Be an instrument for God to use to bless someone (Luke 6:38).

- VIII. Mat. 2:15: Herod died of a disease that caused gangrene of the genitals. He allowed satan to use him to hinder God's plan, and he paid the price.
- A. *Fulfilled*: everything that happens in Jesus' life was fulfillment of prophecy.
 - B. Mat. 2:16: When Herod realized the wise men weren't going to return, he ordered the murder of all children of the region two years old or younger.
 - C. Imagine someone so full of the devil that they murdered every two-year-old in the city.
 - D. When I see young children, they melt my heart.
 - E. Herod was full of the devil.
- IX. Mat. 2:19-23: They end up in Nazareth as a fulfillment of prophecy.
- X. Mat. 21:33: The *householder* refers to God, Himself.
- A. *The vineyard* is the finished product of the earth (Gen. 1:31).
 1. *Husbandman (farmer)* refers to the Jewish race (Gen. 12:1).
 2. All nations (every race, creed, color) would be blessed through this race.
 3. It's the reason Jews have suffered the worse among all groups even up to this day.
 4. The other highly persecuted people group is women because of Gen. 3:15.
 5. The enemy is not man. The enemy is satan.
 - B. Mat. 21:34: Now the plan is going forth.
 1. *The time of the fruit* is the birth of Jesus.
 2. Now the process starts when all peace and good will is returned to mankind.
 - C. Mat. 21:35: God sent prophets (servants) and they'd kill them because they didn't like the message. You can kill the messenger, but you can't kill the message.
 1. Mat. 21:34: *Fruits of the earth* refers to those saved by the Word of God.
 2. God expects production.
 - D. Mat. 21:35-38: It's not enough to know Scripture; you need to understand it.
 1. Satan knew Scripture but had no revelation. He doesn't understand how it works.
 2. Isa. 7:14: God would bruise satan's head with the seed of a woman (Gen. 3:15).
 3. Isa. 9:6: The magi read this.
 4. Lev. 17:11: Satan didn't understand the power of the blood.
 - a. Rom. 3:24: Faith is trust, confidence and belief in His blood.
 - b. Rom. 3:25: Remission is freedom, pardon, deliverance, forgiveness, liberty.
 - c. God will cause us to be free again and our sin to be forgiven.
 - d. Heb. 9:22: Jesus shed blood causes, forgiveness, deliverance, liberty.
 - E. In this parable, Jesus was telling about God's plan to deliver mankind.
- XI. Mat. 21:38-41: The Pharisees answer, not realizing Jesus is talking about them.
- A. Mat. 21:42: Jesus quotes Psa. 118:22 (...the stone you [Pharisees] rejected...).
 - B. Mat. 21:43: Those Pharisees didn't receive, so He's going to the Gentiles.
 - C. The door opened so we could all get into the kingdom of God.
 - D. Mat. 21:44: Broken refers to becoming new (2 Cor. 5:17).
 - E. Mat. 21:45: Finally, they understood that Jesus was talking about them.
- XII. This parable revealed God's plan: past, present, and future.
- A. 1 Cor. 2:7-8: Satan and those who followed him had no revelation.
 - B. The Church is built on revelation (Mat. 16:18).

- C. Luke 2:14: Peace means prosperity and rest to all men.
- D. Mankind has peace with God and can access the peace of God (Rom. 5:1).

XIII. That is what Christmas is about.

- A. Christmas is not about chestnuts and santa clause.
- B. Christmas is about God's plan to rescue mankind from sin and hell.
- C. God loves you (John 3:16).

Closing Summary

The parable of the householder unfolds God's plan to reconcile the world to Himself. The plan was that a Child would be born and a Son given. His name is Jesus. He laid down His power and splendor and allowed Himself to be wrapped in sinful flesh. He did it because only a man with sinless blood could save us. Jesus is the greatest gift ever given. Therefore, when you give gifts at Christmastime, do it in celebration of the gift God gave us, Jesus Christ our Savior.