



WORD OF FAITH INT'L CHRISTIAN CENTER

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

The Parables of Jesus, Part 4

by Bishop Keith Butler | Bible Study Notes | Sunday, November 21, 2021

Text: Rom. 10:17, Mat. 13, Mark 4, Luke 8

Opening Summary

There was time when all things began, and there is a time of the end. In this lesson, Bishop Butler teaches about the parable of the sower and the parable of the tears and the wheat. He expounds on the importance of realizing the time we are in will soon end, and how vital it is to do the assignment He's given you, and witness to others about Jesus.

- I. Rom. 10:17: Faith comes by hearing **and** hearing.
 - A. Why did Jesus start teaching in parables?
 - B. Mat. 5-7: He taught on the mount, in their synagogues.
 - C. Mark 1:38: He preached in their cities, towns and synagogues to pharisees, scribes, rulers, Sadducees, etc.
 - D. Luke 7:9; 7:1-10: The centurion's (a gentile) faith was not found in all of Israel.
 - E. Mat. 4:23: He used to teach everyone in plain speech but they didn't receive it.
- II. Rom. 10:17: *Hearing* (Gk.: akoe) means *give audience, hearing*. It's written twice.
 - A. Your physical ears must hear it.
 - B. Your heart must hear it.
- III. Mat. 13:15: Jesus knew they didn't want Him; they wanted His provision.
- IV. Luke 8:15: There were four classes of people: Wayside, thorny, stony, and good ground.
 - A. Those with an honest and good heart keep it.
 - B. *Keep* (Gk.: katecho) means *hold fast, retain, possess, seize, take, constant meditation and practice of it*.
- V. Heb. 5:12-14: They heard, received, believed, spoke, acted and meditated on the Word (Rom. 12:1-2). He spoke in parables to protect the Word.
 - A. They didn't qualify for the word's revelation because they had no "hearing **and** hearing" (Mat. 13:15).
 - B. This is God's way. There is a time when the door closes. God is merciful.
 - C. They missed the opportunity because of their heart.
- VI. There are those who have not heard the Word.
 - A. People not exposed to the Word have no chance. That's why we must tell them.
 - B. Tell them because somebody, somewhere, gave you the opportunity.
 - C. Many ministries just give self-improvement speeches.
- VII. Mat. 28:19-20: Jesus assigned His disciples to make sure everyone has a chance.

- A. 2 Timothy 3:16: The Word should make you examine yourself. It should straighten you out sometimes.
- B. People are afraid to preach the Word for fear of threats.
- C. They get angry with the messenger. They're actually angry with the Word.
- D. Mark 16:15-20: This is not a suggestion. Every Christian is required to tell others about God. Be wise about it.

VIII. The parable of the sower tells us there were four who heard the Word. Three of four people who hear with their physical ears but not with their heart are defeated by Satan's five tools.

- A. One in four hear the Word with their physical ears and with their heart keep it, retain it, act on it, and practice it until they become productive for God.
- B. They do it with patience (Luke 8:15).
- C. Patience is required to sustain affliction and persecution.
- D. The Word is rooted in them (Psa. 1:3).
- E. Heb. 6:12: Faith and patience gets the promise. *Before* the pandemic, people didn't come to church because they were lazy.
- F. Luke 21:19: Patience keeps your mind from going tilt during affliction and persecution.
- G. Mark 11:23-24: Patience is necessary to see this happen in your life.

IX. Mat. 13:24-30: The next parable after the sower is about the kingdom of heaven.

- A. There are three heavens: the atmospheric heaven, outer space also called the stellar heavens, and the third heaven where God's throne is.
- B. Kingdom of heaven is also called kingdom of God; God's way of thinking and doing.
- C. The kingdom of heaven is Jesus operating on earth.
- D. Read the context of the Scripture to know the one to which it refers.
- E. The farmer planted good seed (the seed is the Word, living Word).
- F. The enemy planted tares/weeds (negative words) among the wheat.
- G. Weeds and the seeds came up together.
- H. Jesus said, let them grow together until the harvest, the time of the end.
- I. The Lord instructed me to tell you we are very close to the end.**
- I. Mat. 13:36-43: There's a harvest time when both are reaped together.
- J. Rev. 20:10-11: "For ever and ever" is not purgatory. It's not that you learn your lesson and after 50 years, you can ask God to let you out. You never get out.
- K. Right now is your audition time.

X. Rev. 20:12: The books were opened.

- A. When you heard the Word and received it, you were born again (2 Cor. 5:17-21).
- B. Your record before you were born again was expunged.
- C. Heb. 10:26: Now that you're born again, your works determine your reward in heaven.
- D. Some will get into heaven, but with no reward.
- E. Be good ground. Find your assignment and do it. Witness to people.

XI. Rev. 20:13-15: The sea gave up the dead: A body can be cremated and spread over the sea. God will bring it all together to stand before Him, spirit, soul and body.

- A. Those in hell are going to find out why they are there.
 - B. God has released an army to make sure people hear His Word. That's what KBM is about. It's why we're on worldwide television (Mat. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-20).
 - C. Doing what God said makes you good ground.
- XII. Some people want to tell God, "I'll serve You when I get ready."
- A. Some years ago, I went to the golf course to play golf. Since I was there alone, they paired me with someone, a gentleman in his late 70s. The Lord told me to talk to Him about Jesus and that this would be his last chance to hear the gospel. In the wisdom of God, I did. He was very offended.
 - B. There are people the Lord said not to pray for (1 John 5:16).
 - C. Receive Jesus while you have the opportunity. Secure your eternity.

Closing Summary

There was a time when all things began, and there is a time of the end. It is vital that you realize the time we are in will soon end. Therefore, you should take the opportunity you have now to receive Jesus as Lord, do what God called you to do, and witness to others about Jesus. God loves you so much that He has given you many chances. Take the opportunity to follow Him fully today, while you still have the chance.