

Week 44: The Parables of Jesus

- The Pearl of Great Price – Matthew 13:45-46
- The Dragnet – Matthew 13:47-50
- The Unmerciful Servant – Matthew 18:21-35
- The Great Supper – Luke 14:16-24
- The Lost Sheep – Luke 15:4-7

Parable—11**The Pearl of Great Price**

Matthew 13:45-46

- ✦ This is a redemption parable. It teaches us that Christ's sole purpose for entering the world was to redeem us by paying the ultimate price for our redemption.
- ✦ *The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.*

Parable—12**The Dragnet**

Matthew 13:47-50

- ✦ This is a parable of the Judgment, which teaches that on the Last Day the angels of God will gather together all people, separating unbelievers from believers, and casting the unbelievers into hell.
- ✦ *The kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away (vss. 47-48).*
- ✦ *So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth (vss. 49-50).*

Parable—13

The Unmerciful Servant

Matthew 18:21-35

- ✦ In the death of His Son, God has forgiven us a debt that we could not pay. This parable teaches the baptized that forgiveness for those who trespass against us flows from faith in Christ's undeserved forgiveness, and that the refusal to forgive those who trespass against us is a denial of faith in Christ and a rejection of His forgiveness.
- ✦ This parable was told by Jesus in answer to Peter's question, *"Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"* Jesus said to him, *"I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven"* (vss. 21-22).
- ✦ A servant owed his master ten thousand talents, more than he could possibly repay. The master commanded that he and all his possessions be sold to repay the debt. The servant pleaded for mercy. The master was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.
- ✦ The forgiven servant found a fellow servant who owed him a hundred denarii, grabbed him by the throat, and demanded repayment of the debt. When the second servant pleaded to his fellow servant for mercy, the first servant refused to have compassion, and threw him into prison until he should repay his debt.
- ✦ When the master found out about his wicked servant he said, *"You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?"* (vss. 32-33).
- ✦ The master delivered the unbelieving and unforgiving servant to the torturers until he should repay everything. Jesus said, *"So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses"* (vs. 35).

Parable—14

The Great Supper

Luke 14:16-24

- ✦ The call of the Gospel to receive salvation in Christ is like an invitation which is rejected because people have "more important things to do." Those who are helpless and needy receive the invitation and believe the Gospel. Those who believe they have no need reject the invitation and are excluded from salvation.
- ✦ *A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, "Come, for all things are now ready." But they all with one accord began to make excuses* (vss. 16-17).
- ✦ *"I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused"* (vs. 18).
- ✦ *"I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused"* (vs. 19).
- ✦ *Still another said, "I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come"* (vs. 20).
- ✦ *Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, "Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind"* (vs. 21).
- ✦ *And the servant said, "Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room." Then the master said to the servant, "Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled"* (vss. 22-23).
- ✦ *"For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper"* (vs. 24).

- ✦ Christ Jesus came into the world to save the lost sinner who was not worth saving. Jesus' passion to save the single lost soul is illustrated in this parable in which a man does the unthinkable: He leaves the many to rescue the one. This work delights the Lord and all of heaven.
- ✦ *What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!"* (vss. 4-6).
- ✦ *I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance* (vs. 7).

