

## Jesus' Kingdom Parables, Part 2

The Kingdom and the Covenant, Session 5

### Kingdom Insights (last week)

- Kingdom truths are revealed spiritually, not intellectually
- People will respond to the kingdom message in a variety of ways; not all of them beneficial
- The current phase of God's kingdom on earth is unseen, but gradually growing in size & influence, & gradually transforming those within it
- The devil infiltrates the kingdom with false doctrines & people who do evil
- Jesus will purge the kingdom at the end of the age

### Parable of the hidden treasure

- Mt 13:44, "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field."
- God used phrase "treasured possession" in reference to Israel
  - Ex 19:5(a), "Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession."
  - Deut 14:2(b), "Out of all the peoples on the face of the earth, the LORD has chosen you to be his treasured possession."
  - Ps 135:4, "For the LORD has chosen Jacob to be his own, Israel to be his treasured possession."
- In the parable of the weeds, the "field" represents the world
- How might Israel have been hidden in the world prior to Jesus' time?
  - Deut 7:7, "The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples."
- What price did God pay to gain possession of the entire world for his kingdom?
  - Jn 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."
  - 1 Jn 2:2, Jesus "is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world."
  - Rev 11:15(b), "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever."

- Jesus regained possession of the earth by paying the price for humanity's sin; the sin which caused us to lose possession of it to Satan
  - That entitled God to claim the "hidden treasure" – Israel – as his own
  - Ro 1:16(b), The gospel is "the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile."
- Kingdom insight: Israel is God's treasured possession & he paid a great price to redeem them

### **Parable of the Pearl**

- Mt 13:45-46, <sup>45</sup> "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. <sup>46</sup> When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it."
- Who or what does the merchant represent?
- Lk 19:10, "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."
- Jn 6:44(a), "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him."
- Scriptures that indicate the great value attributed to pearls: Mt 7:6; 1 Tim 2:9; Rev 17:4; 18:12; 18:16; 21:21
- Isa 57:20, "But the wicked are like the tossing sea, which cannot rest, whose waves cast up mire and mud."
- Isa 60:5(b), "... the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come."
- Rev 17:1(b), 15, <sup>1</sup> "Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters.... <sup>15</sup> The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages."
- Kingdom insight: God included redemption of gentiles in the great price he paid to redeem Israel

### **Parable of the net**

- Mt 13:47-48, <sup>47</sup> "Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. <sup>48</sup> When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away."
  - Why would fishermen consider some fish "bad"?
- vv 49-50, <sup>49</sup> "This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous <sup>50</sup> and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

- Mt 13:40-42, <sup>40</sup> “As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup> The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. <sup>42</sup> They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”
- “end of the age” – Greek: *synteleias aionos*
  - Mt 24:3, uses that Greek phrase to refer to end of current world system
  - Mt 28:20, Jesus assures disciples he’ll be with them to the end of the age
  - Heb 9:26, says Jesus “has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself”
  - When did Jesus do that?
  - “Age” can mean: person’s lifetime, generation, time, long ago, eternity or other things
- Would the millennium qualify as an “age”?
- The phrase, “end of the age,” in the parable of the weeds & parable of the net refers to the end of Jesus’ millennial reign on earth
- Kingdom insight: Jesus will remove the wicked from the righteous & throw them into the lake of fire at the end of his millennial reign
- Jesus concluded his teaching about the kingdom in these parables recorded in Matthew 13
- A statement many consider another kingdom parable:
  - Mt 13:52, “Therefore every teacher of the law who has been instructed about the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.”

### **Conclusion**

- Israel is God’s treasured possession & he paid a great price to redeem them
- God included redemption of gentiles in the great price he paid to redeem Israel
- Jesus will remove the wicked from the righteous & throw them into the lake of fire at the end of his millennial reign