

The Parables of Jesus

Parables Of Faith

I. The Parable of the Sower (Mark 4:1-10; 13-20)

1 Notice how many people were with Jesus listening to him.

2-8 Jesus uses a familiar earthly picture. How useful is it to us who don't farm anymore?

9-10 What is Jesus' point in this verse?

Can be taken in many ways – not mere entertainment; need to consider in depth

What problem do the disciples have?

Not understanding; too embarrassed to ask in public; but at least they asked

13 What do you think about Jesus' answer?

14 Where is the start of spiritual life?

It is always with God's Word

15 Tell me what you see about this type of person.

*Not necessarily the "bad" people of this world, indeed sometimes the nicest people;
Jesus gives more time to the next two*

16-17 Can you give an example of when or how you have seen this happen in life?

Often people have had troubles and then leave church or blame God.

18-19 What happens to those in the weeds? (Prov 4:25-27; Heb 12:1-2)

*This is perhaps a temptation more intense in our day than at any time in human history;
we live in an age of intense distractions.*

20 What happens to those in the good soil?

A Reminder: *Faith* alone saves, but *faith* is never *alone*.

From the People's Bible commenting on this parable: "Another benefit of this parable is to see ourselves all the way through it..." (p.197) How does that compare with our typical interpretation.

Main point of the parable:

GOD'S WORD IS RECEIVED DIFFERENTLY BY DIFFERENT PEOPLE.

II. The Parables of the Hidden Treasure and Fine Pearl (Matthew 13:44-46)

What is the most valuable thing you have ever found?

44 How did he find this treasure? Is this likely?

In this time and place, people often hid valuable things by burying them. If the owner died, they might be unrecoverable for decades or centuries

What is the overriding concern of this parable?

The great value of the treasure

45 How is this different from the previous parable? How is it similar?

*This man is looking for this "treasure", the other was not; perhaps other differences
Similar in that there is something of great value*

Also look at Philippians 3:7-8; Psalm 49:7-9

Main point of the parables:

FAITH IS THE MOST VALUABLE THING YOU CAN HAVE.

If we try to interpret every detail, what different things start to pop up?

*Can you buy heaven? This treasure hunter was deceptive. What are the pearls of lesser value?
Etc.*

What happens when we start to look at all these different things?

*We lose focus on the main point AND we can even come up with un-Biblical interpretations.
Remember, parables have one main point!*