

Message Nine

The Appearance of the Kingdom of the Heavens (2)

Scriptures reading: Matt. 13:44, 45-46

I. The basic thought in Matthew 13 and 1 Corinthians 3 is the basic thought of the entire Bible— life and building:

- A. In both chapters we have God's farm and God's building—Matt. 13:3, 24, 37-38a, 44-46; 1 Cor. 3:9b-12.
- B. The parables in Matthew 13 reveal the matters of life and building:
 - 1. The first four parables are related to God's farm for growing Christ into the kingdom—vv. 1-33.
 - 2. The fifth and sixth parables are related to transformation for producing precious material for God's building—vv. 44-46.
 - 3. In today's Christendom the Lord can find a great deal of wheat and a small amount of meal, but He cannot find much of the pearl and the treasure.
 - 4. To enter into the kingdom of the heavens, it is not adequate simply to be wheat or meal; we must also be the pearl and the precious stones.

II. The Lord Jesus is continually seeking two things— the kingdom as the treasure and the church as the pearl—vv. 44-46:

- A. If we would apply the parables of the treasure and the pearl in a practical way, we need to see that during the period of the existence of Christendom, the Lord is working to gain the treasure and the pearl.
- B. In order to understand the treasure and the pearl in 13:44-46, we need to consider the kingdom and the church in 16:18-19; the treasure is the kingdom, and the pearl is the church.
- C. On the cross the Lord Jesus sacrificed everything to buy both the pearl and the field in which the treasure was hidden; this reveals how much He desires the kingdom and the church—13:44-46.

III. The treasure hidden in the field signifies the kingdom hidden in the God-created earth—v. 44:

- A. The treasure signifies the kingdom with the true Israel, God's peculiar treasure—Exo. 19:5; Psa. 135:4.
- B. The treasure hidden in the field must consist of gold or precious stones, the materials for the building of the church and the New Jerusalem—1 Cor. 3:12; Rev. 21:18-20.
- C. Christ went to the cross and sacrificed all that He had to redeem the God-created earth because within the earth there was the kingdom, the treasure—Matt. 13:44:
 - 1. In the Bible the earth signifies the world created by God, and the sea signifies the world corrupted by Satan—Gen. 1:26-28; Isa 57:20:
 - a. God's kingdom cannot be established in the sea, and God's will cannot be done in the Satan-corrupted world.
 - b. God's will must be done on the God-created earth, and God's kingdom must be established on the Christ-redeemed earth—Matt. 6:10.
 - 2. In order to have the kingdom on earth, the Lord had to redeem the earth because it had been polluted by Satan's fall and man's sin.
 - 3. The kingdom is realized in the church life, but its manifestation is related to the redeemed nation of Israel—Rom. 14:17; Acts 1:3, 6; 3:21; Matt. 19:28.

IV. Because the pearl comes out of the sea, which signifies the world corrupted by Satan (Rev. 17:15), it must refer to the church, which is constituted mainly of regenerated believers from the Gentile world and which is of great value— Matt. 13:45-46:

- A. The merchant in verse 45 is Christ, who was seeking the church for His kingdom; after finding it in 16:18 and 18:17, He went to the cross and sold all that He had and bought it for the kingdom—Acts 20:28.
 - B. Ephesians 5:27 says that Christ will present to Himself a glorious church without spot, wrinkle, or any such thing; this is the church as the beautiful pearl produced out of the Gentile world.
 - C. The parable of the pearl in Matthew 13:45-46 reveals that the Lord's desire is to have this pearl of great value—the church as the consummation of His complete salvation—Rom. 5:10:
 - D. The parables in Matthew 13 reveal that the Lord Jesus came as the Sower to sow the seed and that eventually He gained the pearl:
 - 1. The seed is Christ, and the pearl is the church; the pearl comes out of the seed.
 - 2. The Sower Himself is the seed, and the multiplication of the seed is the multiplication of the Sower; hence, the kingdom is the multiplication of Christ as the seed sown into us.
- V. The parables of the treasure and the pearl refer to the overcomers throughout the centuries—Rev. 2:7b, 11b, 17b, 26; 3:5, 12, 21:**
- A. In the first four parables the Lord covers Christendom in a general way, and in the next two parables He covers the overcomers in a particular way.
 - B. In the eyes of God, the overcomers are more solid, precious, and valuable than the wheat; He likens them to the treasure hidden in the field and to the pearl out of the sea.

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Reference Scripture Verses:

Matt. 13:1-46. **1** On that day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. **2** And great crowds were gathered to Him, so that He stepped into a boat and sat, and all the crowd stood on the shore. **3** And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, Behold, the sower went out to sow. **4** And as he sowed, some *seeds* fell beside the way, and the birds came and devoured them. **5** And others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much earth, and immediately they sprang up because they had no depth of earth. **6** But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered. **7** And others fell on the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them. **8** But others fell on the good earth and yielded fruit, one a hundredfold, and one sixtyfold, and one thirtyfold. **9** He who has ears to hear, let him hear. **10** And the disciples came and said to Him, Why do You speak in parables to them? **11** And He answered and said to them, Because to you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of the heavens, but to them it has not been given. **12** For whoever has, it shall be given to him, and he will abound; but whoever does not have, even that which he has shall be taken away from him. **13** For this reason I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. **14** And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, "In hearing you shall hear and by no means understand, and seeing you shall see and by no means perceive. **15** For the heart of this people has become fat, and with their ears they have heard heavily, and their eyes they have closed, lest they perceive with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart, and they turn around, and I will heal them." **16** But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. **17** For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men have desired to perceive the things that you see, and have not perceived *them*, and to hear the things that you hear, and have not heard *them*. **18** You therefore hear the parable of the one who sowed. **19** When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand, the evil one comes and snatches away that which has been sown in his heart. This is the one sown beside the way. **20** And the one sown on the rocky places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; **21** Yet he does not have root in himself but lasts only for a time, and when affliction or persecution occurs because of the word, immediately he is stumbled. **22** And the one sown in the thorns, this is he who hears the word, and the anxiety of the age and the deceitfulness of riches utterly choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. **23** But the one sown on the good earth, this is he who hears the word and understands, who by all means bears fruit and produces, one a hundredfold, and one sixtyfold, and one thirtyfold.

24-43. **24** Another parable He set before them, saying, The kingdom of the heavens has become like a man sowing good seed in his field. **25** But while the men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares in the midst of the wheat and went away. **26** And when the blade sprouted and produced fruit, then the tares appeared also. **27** And the slaves of the master of the house came and said to him, Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where then did the tares come from? **28** And he said to them, An enemy has done this. And the slaves said to him, Do you want us then to go and collect them? **29** But he said, No, lest while collecting the tares, you uproot the wheat along with them. **30** Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, Collect first the tares and bind them into bundles to burn them up, but the wheat gather into my barn.

31 Another parable He set before them, saying, The kingdom of the heavens is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, **32** And which is smaller than all the seeds; but when it has grown, it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of heaven come and roost in its branches.

33 Another parable He spoke to them: The kingdom of the heavens is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal until the whole was leavened. **34** All these things Jesus spoke in parables to the crowds, and apart from a parable He spoke nothing to them, **35** So that what was spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, "I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things hidden from the foundation of the world."

36 Then, leaving the crowds, He went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, Make the parable of the tares of the field clear to us. **37** And He answered and said, He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; **38** And the field is the world; and the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil one; **39** And the enemy who sowed them is the devil; and the harvest is the consummation of the age; and the reapers are angels. **40** Therefore just as the tares are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the consummation of the age. **41** The Son of Man will send His angels, and they will collect out of His kingdom all the stumbling blocks and those who practice lawlessness, **42** And will cast them into the furnace of fire. In that place there will be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth. **43** Then the righteous will shine forth like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

44 The kingdom of the heavens is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid, and in his joy goes and sells all that he has, and buys that field.

45-26. 45 Again, the kingdom of the heavens is like a merchant seeking fine pearls; **46** And finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

1Cor. 3:9-12. 9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's cultivated land, God's building. **10** According to the grace of God given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid a foundation, and another builds upon *it*. But let each man take heed how he builds upon *it*. **11** For another foundation no one is able to lay besides that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. **12** But if anyone builds upon the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, stubble,

Matt. 16:18-19. 18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. **19** I will give to you the keys of the kingdom of the heavens, and whatever you bind on the earth shall have been bound in the heavens, and whatever you loose on the earth shall have been loosed in the heavens.

Exo. 19:5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My personal treasure from among all peoples, for all the earth is Mine.

Psa. 135:4 For Jehovah has chosen Jacob for Himself, Israel for His personal treasure.

Rev. 21:18-20. 18 And the building work of its wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. **19** The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every precious stone: the first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald; **20** The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprase; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst.

Gen. 1:26-28. 26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth. **27** And God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. **28** And God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.

Isa. 57:20 But the wicked are like the tossed sea, For it cannot be calm, And its waters toss up mire and mud.

Matt. 6:10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, *so* also on earth.

Rom. 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:3 To whom also He presented Himself alive after His suffering by many irrefutable proofs, appearing to them through *a period of* forty days and speaking the things concerning the kingdom of God.

Acts 1:6 So the ones who came together asked Him, saying, Lord, are You at this time restoring the kingdom to Israel?

Acts 3:21 Whom heaven must indeed receive until the times of the restoration of all things, of which God spoke through the mouth of His holy prophets from of old.

Matt. 19:28 And Jesus said to them, Truly I say to you that you who have followed Me, in the restoration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you also shall sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Rev. 17:15 And he said to me, The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues.

Matt. 18:17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell *it* to the church; and if he refuses to hear the church also, let him be to you just like the Gentile and the tax collector.

Acts 20:28 Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among whom the Holy Spirit has placed you as overseers to shepherd the church of God, which He obtained through His own blood.

Eph. 5:27 That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.

Rom. 5:10 For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled,

Rev. 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.

Rev. 2:11 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall by no means be hurt of the second death.

Rev. 2:17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give of the hidden manna, and to him I will give a white stone, and upon the stone a new name written, which no one knows except him who receives *it*.

Rev. 2:26 And he who overcomes and he who keeps My works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations;

Rev. 3:5 He who overcomes will be clothed thus, in white garments, and I shall by no means erase his name out of the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

Rev. 3:12 He who overcomes, him I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall by no means go out anymore, and I will write upon him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which descends out of heaven from My God, and My new name.

Rev. 3:21 He who overcomes, to him I will give to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat with My Father on His throne.