

3/21/19

NT #12

Matthew 13, Luke 8, 13

GT

Who Hath Ears to Hear, Let Him Hear

Problem: Heart is Fat

Wheat and tares
tares = darnel or "false wheat"

This parable is not hell - what happens with unused plants? They aren't burned as a punishment to the plant, but because the plant served no purpose. Like salt that has lost its savor and is trodden underfoot, the plant is discovered as a waste, and disposed of. A similar fate awaits the fish caught in the "net" parable not fit for eating. Hell is also referred to as outer darkness. So which is it, fire or darkness? The point is, both of these names are metaphors to communicate how painful it is to be brought to a bright recollection of our own wasted potential, and then forced to sit in that recollection forever.

Sower
now would you interpret this parable if you didn't get the commentary?
I am the sower? - the seed is my acts
I am the seed? - very similar to soil, but my choice is made for me

way side: not plowed - seed stays on top.
stony ground: shallow roots - hidden rocks in earth
thorns: other plants competing for sunlight & water
good ground: bring forth fruit

~~Elder Hollister~~
Dallin Oaks Apr. 2015
ignored wayside - taught how to avoid stony & thorny problems

③ Mysteries
seeing - might not see
Isaiah 6:9-10
make the heart of this people fat
Word of Wisdom
hidden treasures of knowledge
Isaiah 6 → make heart fat = declare their hearts are fat - i.e. enlarged, grown beyond what is proper - i.e. they're not humble, and so when they hear or see, there is no wisdom imparted

man bites dog vs. dog bites man → those who have will receive those who don't will lose
⑤ take away that which he hath: contrast opposite of expectation
Matt 13:12 & Luke 8:18 (seemeth to have) → dramatic irony
Luke ch. 8 is itself = parable

Luke 8:14 fruit to perfection → ripeness completion, wholeness
telos
"perfection" purpose
fill measure of creation
Matt. 5 - be ye perfect - I've now told you how the law was incomplete, so be ye therefore complete
Jer. 31:33 write it in hearts
Ec. 36:27 cause ye to walk

⑦ leaven spreading → man with many devils talking about Jesus
"Gospel" spreads by blessing lives - Just like Samaritan women at the well

Notice → Jesus says candles are meant to be seen - then tells a gentile to spread word of his blessing - then tells Jews to keep it secret - Luke 8:16-18
the Gentiles had the Jews had not nothing is secret
Notice → Luke 13 1st shall be first But Matthew 10 → go not into the way of Gentiles or Samaritans. But Jesus himself did both

Luke 13

parable of:

Man with barren fig tree (Jews?) - easter egg - extra credit

6

mustard seed

Math 21:18-19 Mark 11:12-14, 20-21

both

leaven in three measures of meal

- Daniel 2 - kingdom grows & spreads Galatians 5:9 a little leaven, whole lump
- leaven of pharisees ^{Math 16:6 v.12 "doctrine"} - unleavened bread

Math

treasure hid in a field

- man found and concealed (i.e. protected) - don't be like the seeds cast on the way side, stolen by birds

pearl of great price

- this treasure is bought - they're both purchased at great cost, by one who is seeking. In both cases, the implication is the treasure is worth everything we own know. In the case of the hidden treasure, the ROI is immense.

8

net full of fish, good kept, bad cast away

scribes who become disciples like householders who have new and old in their treasury

- Jesus helping scribes to see they have something unique to offer ^{the kingdom} and reinforcing the idea that he didn't come to do away with the Hebrew scriptures.

Luke 13 23-30

first shall be last, last shall be first:

~~you are like the seed of Abraham~~ Your heart is fat -> you are reacting to the word like ppl of Isaiah
time -> you are like the seed of Abraham (O.T. paradigm)
you (disciples) get the interpretation -> you are in a kingdom paradigm.
The two seeds from John 1 -> you have been born of God. (v.13-14)
Isaiah 53 - when his soul is made an offering for sin he shall see his seed.

- The fact that Matthew spends so much time talking about which O.T. scriptures Jesus fulfilled is not just a testimony of Jesus but a testimony of the Hebrew scriptures to Jesus & his followers.

God wants you to fail to understand things at first. He wants you to have unanswered questions.

What else is the veil but a guarantee that you will encounter things outside of your experience? Take one moment to imagine all the people who have lived and died without any knowledge of God, and you will realize it isn't how many answers you know that is important to God. It's what you do with the question that matters to him. So consider what happens when someone in the multitude hears a parable from Christ. She considers it, prays about it, tries to understand it based on scripture, forms an idea about what it might mean, and then tries the idea out. Alma 32 - we plant the word

and the wheat we are called on to cultivate includes that plant growing from our own stalk. It is simply too early in the growing season for us to know who is a wheat stalk and who is a tare. We are therefore called not only to see wheat among the tares but to see wheat in the tares.

Life is a parable.

Tares = darnel weed. Poisonous, intoxicating herb that looks exactly like wheat. French ivraie from L. ebriacus until the ear appears

The master of the vineyard told his servants not to pull up the tares, not because they might miss some of the tares & leave them in the ground, but because they might inadvertently pull up wheat. This is important. The servants are concerned with the presence of tares - and rightfully so - if the tares are used to make flour, it will be poisoned. However, the Master lets them know that this consideration, important as it is, is secondary. The wheat is precious to him, and he limits the task of the servants to ensuring the health of the wheat and to that alone.

He has reapers (later identified as angels) to separate the wheat from the tares. Notice now that the servants are not mentioned in the interpretation at all. That's because the ~~servants~~ servants ~~are~~ and the wheat have the same symbolic meaning. Let this sink in. Of course the wheat are his servants. That's the whole point of being wheat. And what we learn in this parable - indeed the whole point of the parable - is that the servants are never going to be able to tell wheat from tares. The reapers will handle that when the time comes. The servants' job is to cultivate wheat, and they can't be trusted to determine when something that looks like wheat is actually a tare. This is why it's so important that we don't judge each other, but Jesus' message goes beyond this - if we can't tell when someone else is a tare, we are similarly unqualified to make that judgment about ourselves.