

Introduction:

- *"He replied, "You are permitted to understand the secret of the Kingdom of God. But I use parables for everything I say to outsiders,"* (Mark 4:11, NLT) NKJV - Mysteries
- *"He replied, "You are permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven, but others are not. To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given, and they will have an abundance of knowledge. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them."* (Matthew 13:11-12, NLT) NKJV - Mysteries
- Last Sunday I introduced us to what the Kingdom of God is. The Kingdom of God is the Rule of God. God's rule in your life, your family, your relationships, your finances, etc. Where God's rule is welcomed the blessings of God natural flow. Or we can say that the Kingdom has come. The question this morning is: Where do we find this Rule of God? How can we obtain it? How do we walk in it?
- At the end of Mt 12, Jesus has just spoken of the special privilege of his disciples, to be regarded as his true family, and chapter 13 will underline that privilege.
- Matthew 13 is another shift in his book. We call it a narrative passage like chapter 5-7 in the sermon on the mount. Matthew is playing back to us the teachings of Jesus. Chapters 11-12 were short videos of what was happening while Jesus and the disciples traveled. In both, Matthew is sending a message.
 - Chapters 11-12 the message was some people receive the kingdom some do not. There are grave consequences for not receiving the Kingdom.
 - Chapter 13 is a group of parables that defines what a persons life looks like who receives the kingdom of heaven.
 - We must remember that parables have one basic truth. That truth is not always obvious. It is hidden just enough to cause the person who wants to find it to be engaged with God. The hearer must participate if they are to gain kingdom understanding.
- As the discourse develops we shall find ample cause to believe that good soil can be found: the kingdom of heaven will grow like mustard seed and penetrate like leaven, and people will rejoice at discovering it as at finding a treasure or a pearl; "hidden things" are meant to be revealed (v. 35). France, R. T. (2007). *The Gospel of Matthew* (p. 509). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publication Co.

I. Everyone Loves A Mystery

- A. A mystery is a puzzle that requires solving (Rubics cube), a question that requires seeking (Is the world round or flat?), a curiosity that requires understanding (How is it possible that a bumble bee can fly). IE. a mathematician seeks to solve complex problems. An engineer seeks to design or create by way of solving questions. Those who do laundry seek to discover where all the missing socks go.

- B. Jesus pulls us into the Kingdom realm with this “mysteries language” or NLT “secrets language.” His statement that the mysteries or secrets of the Kingdom are given...make you want to get in line to receive!
1. Let me translate in behalf of last weeks message: *“The mystery of the rule of God is given...”* *“You are permitted to understand the secrets of the rule of God.”* This is a gift given by Jesus to all who are willing to live close to Him! *To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given.*
 2. Mysterion - Gr. word. What does mysterion mean?
 - a) Mysteries are hidden teachings. Like the parables, a story with truth in it.
 - b) It brings us to the place of understanding that God’s very being and rule are unsearchable. Meaning that you will never run out of mysteries to solve.
 - c) Mysteries involve certain conditions and new relationships to occur. Ie. You get saved, you get a new identity. (That is a mystery! What is that identity?) You enter into a relationship with God. You get filled with the Spirit, (Pray in other tongues) you have yet a deeper relationship with God. Principle of the tither and the offering (requires certain conditions).
 - d) The mysteries are God’s present counsels that will ultimately be manifested.
 - e) Parables conceal the mystery of the divine rule from all but the disciples, who are also taught in parables but given understanding.
 - f) Mysteries are the facts of the coming of the kingdom, which only faith can grasp.
 - g) The parables teach the disciples about the incursion of God’s rule in the word and work of Jesus. By grace they perceive that the mystery is Jesus himself as the Messiah. The parables are ultimately a veiling of the mystery because they are so simple. The fact of the sower going out to sow is itself the new world of God. It is the mystery that Jesus uses to draw us into Kingdom rule!

II. The Secret of Heaven’s Rule On Earth

- A. The Kingdom of Heaven / or Kingdom Rule, is the theme of each of the parables that Jesus shares in chapter 13. (Jesus is making a point! And driving that point home.) Each of the parables is a teaching that reveals how the Kingdom of Heaven operates. We must remember that in chapters 5-6 Jesus reveals the heart of King of the kingdom, 8-10 the authority of the kingdom, 11-12 the consequences of rejecting the kingdom and now he teaches how the kingdom works by using parables.
1. Jesus presents 4 parables two with detailed explanations and two that stand alone.
 2. Matthews purpose is to communicate to the reader that those who live in pursuit of the kingdom will find it and that it will grow extensively in their lives if they continue to look for and receive it.
- B. The parables:
1. Parable of the Soils - The kingdom bares fruit where it is allowed to. This parable reveals the the interaction of the kingdom and the human heart.
 2. Parable of the Wheat and Weeds or the Farmer and his enemy. - Its o.k to let the kingdom and the world live side by side.

3. Parable of the Mustard Seed and the yeast. - A little bit of the kingdom goes a long way.
4. Parable of the Hidden Treasure - Do what ever it takes to get it.

III. Insiders and Outsiders

- A. Jesus is in a boat while he is preaching. He shares the parable and when He finishes they interrupt him with a question. What I want to point out is the separation between the disciples/followers who are close to Jesus and those disciples/followers on the shore. I makes a difference how close you are to Jesus. I am sure this morning that there are those here who are close to Jesus and there are those who are on the shore.
1. The disciples are in close to Jesus the crowd is far away.
 2. The disciple are close enough to ask a question and get and answer that the people will not hear.
 3. The very context of the event stress the point that Jesus is about to make as He answer their question.
- B. 13:10 *"Why do you use parables to when you talk to the people?"*
1. Let's bring out the wrong perspective right away.
 - a) The wrong perspective is to look at this parable and think that the disciples are something special so they get the revelation.
 - b) The wrong perspective is to assume 'special status' because of position with God. But that would be like the Pharisees. There is no special status here. The kingdom is not based on status.
 2. The answer:
 - a) I use parables because the truth is in the picture. It is not obvious but hidden just a little under the surface. IE. Dream: The answer is in the picture. Cut the picture from frame and there in was the answer.
 - b) There are disciples (insiders) and there are the crowds (outsiders). This is not special status but right choice on the part of the disciple.
 - c) The insiders are privy to the truth because they are disciples who are looking to find more of God's truth. The crowds are not looking for the truth they are looking to have their needs met. There are way too many people who go to church to have their needs met rather than to discover truth.
 - d) Those who are hungry for God are finding Him. Those who are not are rejecting Him.
 - e) Who can receive the Kingdom and the impact that the Kingdom makes?
 3. What we will see is that there are 'insiders' and 'outsiders' when it comes to the Kingdom of heaven. It is a "secret" in the sense that it is accessible only to the insiders. That does not mean that it is to be jealously guarded from others. Once you have started on the road of spiritual enlightenment, the blessings multiply, but those who do not accept the "message of the kingdom" will lose everything. vs 19.
 4. Is. 6:9-10 is the direct answer to their question. I do this to fulfill what was prophesied.
 - a) Those with hard hearts cannot receive the kingdom nor my teaching
 - b) Therefore the theme that some get it and some don't remains.
- C. Matthew closes the explanation:

1. Letting the disciples know how blessed they are to be receiving the understanding (all of this is happening in the context of discipleship.)
2. By explaining the what the prophets saw was what they were experiencing now! They longed to see and hear what you see and hear now!

IV. The Kingdom Basics

- A. The Word is sown into peoples lives. The Word must go forth.
- B. The Word must be received into the heart and nurtured in order for it to produce.
- C. The Word can have tremendous impact and be unstoppable if believed.
- D. Therefore, revelation that comes through the word is like treasure! Do whatever you have to do to get it!!
- E. The chapter closes with Jesus leaving there for Nazareth his home town. Remember, Matthew is writing a book so the hearers perceive what he knows. So the closing on this section by going to Nazareth further illustrates the limitation that men put upon
 1. Jesus - the authority not accepted.
 2. The Word - reality of the treasure is ignored.
 3. Therefore there is not production.

Conclusion:

- Overview from the authors perspectives gives us insights into where he is going.
- When we know where he is going it allows us to 'dig' where the treasure will be.