

Sunday, Jan. 19, 1941 (Radio)

W.H. Offiler

Matt. 13:18,19 "Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. When anyone heareth the Word of the Kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the wayside."

The Lord is explaining to His Disciples the understanding of the parable of the sower. He lays such marvelous emphasis on the thought I have just read to you from God's Word. There is such a tendency in the world and even among many of God's people to continually say the Word of God is wonderful but they do not seem to understand it. Here is a command laid on the heart of everyone of us not only to read the Word of God, but we must understand it in the marvelous truths it presents for our salvation and for the pardon of our sin and for the continuance of the Spirit life of God within us.

It is wonderful to know that you and I have a part in the grace and Kingdom of God. If we do not understand it we are like the seed that fell by the way side. When it falls merely on our ears and not on a heart prepared by prayer, then we do not understand it and it means nothing to us. We are like those who receive it by the wayside. It does not bring forth the multiplicity of seed. Jesus Christ tells us that when the seed falls on good ground it brings forth good fruit, some thirty, some sixty, and some a hundred fold, and that is a perfect harvest that comes from the Word of God being sown into our heart.

"But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the Word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

This increase of the seed corn, this bountiful harvest comes to you and to me because we understand the Word of God. It is your privilege, not only to read the Word of God, but to read it under the divine tutor, the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ said, "When He comes He shall take of the things of mine and show them to you. He shall teach you all things and bring to your remembrance whatsoever I have said unto you."

As we read the 13th Chapter of Matt. and we realize that so many phases of the Kingdom of God are presented in parables, first the sower; then the grain of mustard seed; then the leaven; then the parable of the tares in the field, we are reminded by Jesus Christ that the end of the present Age is God's great harvest time, the time of ingathering. He said, "At that time shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the Kingdom of their Father."

The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure which a man hid in the field; and it is like a man seeking pearls; and like a net cast into the sea and gathered fish of every kind.

How wonderful for you and for me to remember this morning that Jesus said to His Disciples that day when He gave them all these parables of His Kingdom truth: "Fear not, little flock, it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom." A little later He said, "You shall inherit that Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." When Jesus left, He said, "I go to prepare a place for you...." I suppose the Lord Jesus went to put the finishing touches to that Kingdom which has been prepared from the foundation of this world of ours.

In Luke 7:21 you will find that the Kingdom of God, for this Gospel dispensation of time, is within you. At this very moment, today, we are the partakers of the glory and power of that Kingdom that has been prepared for God's people from the foundation of the world.

Sweeping through the gates, day after day, is that multitude of God's people whom He has taken from the world, delivering them from their pains and granting them an inheritance of the glory and power of God's Kingdom. The glory and power of that Kingdom belongs to you and to me just now. "It is your Father's good pleasure to give unto you personally the Kingdom."

May every one of us become partakers in the glory of that Kingdom prepared from the foundation of the world.

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In Rev. 12 we find the fulfillment of the first Prophecy ever made where the Seed of the Woman was to crush the Head of the Serpent -- the casting down of Satan. When Satan was cast out there was a great cry that went forth from Heaven -- "WOE TO THE INHABITANTS OF THE EARTH." This casting down results in the revelation of the Anti-christ and he runs his course for a period of 42 months or  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years -- the last period of time in the present Age and a period of time that ends with the binding of Satan for 1000 years, the Resurrection of the righteous dead, the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Great White Throne. Here we have a chapter that very explicitly gives the boundary of the thousand years. (Reading of Rev. 20).

Last night God gave me a wonderful spirit of prayer and I seemed to sense that mighty Revival, of prayer, that is coming upon the world. The balance of Power lies in the Church on the side of God's people. In my prayer it seemed to me that we were not using that power and were not alive to our privileges in the Power of God and in the necessity that is on the people of God to give themselves to prayer. Prayer is no effort when your prayer is a wonderful exercise of the faith and Glory of power that is upon our lives. If God cannot talk to me in the daytime, I want Him to wake me up in the night and let me talk to Him.

The thousand years is the Sabbath of the Lord. The Kingdom of God is going to be set up and fill the whole world for 1000 years of time. This also seals the fact that the days of the Lord were 1000 years of time each. Immediately following the present Age there comes the 1000 years of God's Kingdom on this earth. The 1000 years is bound by the Resurrections. The Resurrection of the Righteous dead is at the beginning of the 1000 years, at the end of the present Age, and then the Resurrection of the ungodly dead at the end of the 1000 years and that period which is called "A LITTLE SEASON", when Satan is loosed from the bottomless pit and goes out to deceive the Nations that come up in the second Resurrection.

All over the world today there is being preached and taught that the 1000 years is to be somewhat a continuation of world conditions as they are now. Bible teachers do not seem to be satisfied with God's order of giving us 1000 years of praise and peace and gladness. There will be no preaching of the Gospel in that time. The Bible says, "YOU WILL NOT BE UNDER THE NECESSITY OF SAYING TO YOUR NEIGHBOR 'KNOW THE LORD', FOR ALL WILL KNOW HIM."

The second coming of the Lord Jesus brings the History of the world to a close, as far as Man and Nations go. Early in the Tribulation, every soul that names the Name of Christ will die by the sword of the Anti-christ. There will be no teaching or preaching or operations of salvation as we know it, in the new-birth and baptism of the Holy Ghost. All that will come to an end when the Church is taken out to the Wilderness, at the beginning of the Tribulation period and there She will be fed and nourished of God for  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years. There will be left a Company of unready Ones, the Unwise Virgins. In Rev. 12 they are classed as the Remnant of the Woman's seed. This unwise Remnant had the faith of God and believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, yet they were unready and it was impossible for them to go in to be married. As in the Parable of the Ten Virgins, they were the unwise Virgins, for the simple reason there was no oil in their lamps.

Those lamps that were filled with the oil of God were trimmed and burning, and when the Bridegroom came they went in with Him to be married. The marriage of the Lamb is prior to the beginning of the great Tribulation. This Woman in Rev. 12 is a married Woman and ready to be delivered of a child. Following the natural order, that Woman has been married at least one year before the beginning of the Tribulation. When She is delivered of a Man-child, He is snatched up to God and the Woman flees into the Wilderness for 1260 days -- the period of the great Tribulation.

It is a marvelous thing for us to know that we are a part of that Woman. Only God knows how close we are to the end. After the Church is married to the Lamb, the Spirit and the Bride go out and they say "COME". Here is an immortal Bridegroom, Christ, married to an immortal Church. The Church is lifted to the standard of Christ and the two are married. There is no inferiority in holiness and God-likeness. Then the Spirit and the Church go out for perhaps a year, but whatever period of time that is, just remember, it is going to be a time of world-shaking Revival, a time when Christ and His Church (His Saints) will go out and preach a Gospel without any fear of persecution.

You know how the Lord feeds and nourishes the Spiritual life of His Saints at the present time, by the body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. For that future Period of time the Church is safe in the care and in the keeping of Almighty God. The unwise Virgin class miss the marriage of the Lamb. They go out and make an effort to buy oil, but while they do this, the Bridegroom comes and the door is shut.



This takes your mind back to Noah, when God shut the door of the Ark. Everything living outside had to die when the door was closed. Christ is the Door and when He goes in to be married, the utmost culminations of the Gospel have been completed. This is the Capstone of God's efforts. The awful thing about it is, that while the world passed through the throes of a mighty revival, the people who actually believed in the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, refused the Baptism of the Holy Ghost and they have to go into the Tribulation.

During the Tribulation Christians will not be found on the earth. The only testimony of the Gospel will be from the two Witnesses, Moses and Elijah. Luke 9:30,31. They will come and take the place of the Church. At that time the Church is gone, but God said He would never leave the earth without a Witness. God never reserves the Witness to only ONE but "IN THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES SHALL MY WORD BE ESTABLISHED." These two men, only, live during the Tribulation period by the Power of God on them. They cannot be slain or die until they have completed their testimony. They stand alone, in sackcloth, surrounded by enemies. After these two are slain, men and women begin to celebrate because they have gotten rid of the last two on earth who spoke the Name of Christ. They say they will not bury them, but will let them lie there and they can look at them. They send gifts, one to another, and eat and drink riotously --glad because they are rid of the very last voice of testimony in all the world.

Suddenly they hear the sound of a Trumpet. When that Trumpet begins to sound and they begin to shake and tremble, horrible despair siezes all on the earth and suddenly the Lord Jesus comes through the clouds; the graves then burst open and God's holy dead arise by the millions, wherever they have been laid. The first Resurrection takes place and the blinding Glory of the Lord Jesus Christ destroys every living soul on the face of the earth that has taken the number, name, and mark of the Beast. That is a terrible sight in store for the people of these last days, as they reject God and are determined to have their own way. When the Lord comes from the Heavens, He will destroy, with the brightness of His coming, everything that is outside of the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as the flood destroyed all ungodly flesh in the days of Noah, so does the Brightness of the coming of the Lord destroy everything sinful on the face of the earth.

And yet, teachers today want to carry over into the 1000 years, the devil and sinners. They want to keep the world polluted and stained with sin. Satan is bound because he has power over death. The moment Satan is bound, the Resurrection of the Righteous Dead takes place, and Jesus assumes His rightful place as God of the Living. Paul says, "THE LORD, HIMSELF, SHALL DESCEND FROM HEAVEN WITH A SHOUT, WITH THE VOICE OF THE ARCH ANGEL AND WITH THE TRUMP OF GOD, AND THE DEAD IN CHRIST SHALL RISE FIRST, THEN WE WHICH ARE ALIVE AND REMAIN SHALL BE CAUGHT UP TO MEET THE LORD IN THE AIR."

Now, where are we? Down to the second coming of Christ and to the Resurrection. That is the order. The Church of Christ is going to be alive and continue on throughout the Tribulation Period BUT NOT under the dominion of the Anti-christ. The Church will be in that place of safety just like the Israelites when they were transported into the Wilderness and the moment they were there, God began to feed them from Heaven. He baptised them in the cloud of water and in the Spirit, and for 40 years the life of the Israelites was one wonderful manifestation of the power of God. Their feet did not swell; there was no medicine. God took care of His children and there was not a feeble member among the Tribes.

So then, we which are alive and remain shall be caught up with the Church and the resurrected righteous dead, a marvelous number, to meet the Lord in the air; so shall we ever be with the Lord. They tell us that 200 million, in this Dispensation alone, have shed their blood for Christ, but that is only a few in comparison with those who have loved the Lord and refused to bow down to the spirit of Satan.

God will take care of His own during that Wilderness period of 1260 days. The Lord is on His way down and the Church and the Resurrected Dead will be on their way to meet Him in the air. From the very beginning of that thousand years the earth is free; the binding of Satan means that the curse is suddenly lifted from the earth. The grass will never be the same. The daily sacrifice was taken away when Jesus died on the cross. The Abomination was the mending of the Veil. This brought God's wrath down and so He scattered Israel through all Nations so they could not get together and frame their plot to re-establish the Temple at Jerusalem and offer the blood of bulls and goats. That is the greatest sin that man can commit on this earth-- to repudiate the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ and offer a substitute.

In Dan. 12 it carries the 1260 days to 1290, and then to 1335 days. This is 75 days between the second coming of the Lord and Resurrection of the Righteous dead, and the death of every sinner by the brightness of the coming of the Lord.

There will be 75 days, after the Resurrection, before the Kingdom is established on the earth. "BLESSED IS HE THAT COMETH TO THE 1335 DAYS". That 75 day period is a postlude to the end of the present Age and the operation of the Spirit in the Church -- 75 days of a real HONEYMOON -- Christ and His Church -- not on the earth. The earth is undergoing a change. Things will be so different. The grass will be much greener.

Amen.

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