

# Hard Hitting Parables about the Kingdom

## **(1) “The Pearl of Great Price”**

### **Matthew 13:45-46 (AMP)**

*Again the kingdom of heaven is like a man who is a dealer in search of fine and precious pearls, Who, on finding a single pearl of great price, went and sold all he had and bought it.*

This parable teaches us that the Kingdom is worth giving up everything to have it. This lines up with other teachings of Jesus.

*Mark 8:35 (AMP) – For whoever wants to save his [higher, spiritual, eternal] life, will lose it [the lower, natural, temporal life which is lived only on earth]; and whoever gives up his life [which is lived only on earth] for My sake and the Gospel’s will save it [his higher, spiritual life in the eternal kingdom of God].*

*Luke 17:33 (AMP) – Whoever tries to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will preserve and quicken it.*

*Matthew 16:24 (AMP) – Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.*

It doesn't mean we have to give everything away and live like a swagman of Australia's yester-years. Even though Jesus has made these statements:

*Matthew 19:21 (AMP) – Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor; and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”*

*Matthew 10:9 (AMP) – Take no gold nor silver nor [even] copper money in your purses (belts);*

Giving up is a gradual process. The Lord will take you over the course of time to give up whatever he wants you to give up. It's usually not done all at once – unless he tells you.

He may ask you to give up coffee or TV or holidays or your seaside house. Whatever these things are, it is important to do it when you're told, as quickly and as freely as possible. By 'freely' I mean with the desire to please him and with joy. If it's done begrudgingly, it will be ineffectual and more will be required of you until you can give things up freely.

More often than not the Lord will ask you to give up those things that you are dependent on, as well as those things that you strongly desire. In this way he is training you to give your allegiance to him and to have him as your desire and supplier instead.

Here's some good advice for this process – don't put 'the heavy' on others telling them that they have to give up what you've been told to give up. What we give up (or surrender) is what the Lord tells each of us to do – it doesn't relate to anyone else, unless it is a sin or an iniquity. So, keep it to yourself (e.g. Like fasting<sup>1</sup>) and allow the King to have his way with your life secretly.

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<sup>1</sup> - Matthew 6:16

## **(2) “The Wheat & The Tares”**

### **Matthew 13:24b-30 (AMP)**

*The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while he was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed also darnel (weeds resembling wheat) among the wheat, and went on his way. So when the plants sprouted and formed grain, the darnel (weeds) appeared also. And the servants of the owner came to him and said, Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? Then how does it have darnel shoots in it? He replied to them, An enemy has done this. The servants said to him, Then do you want us to go and weed them out? But he said, No, lest in gathering the wild wheat (weeds resembling wheat), you root up the [true] wheat along with it. Let them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will say to the reapers, Gather the darnel first and bind it in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my granary.*

In this parable, darnel is the name of the weed sown into the field of wheat. Darnel is a grass that looks like wheat and is indistinguishable until the head comes out. The reason the fieldworkers wanted to remove it from the field is that the plant's head is poisonous due to a fungus that grows on it<sup>2</sup>. The poison sticks to the grain in the head and these seeds mix with the wheat seeds during the threshing process causing the flour produced from the mixture to be poisonous.

### **Matthew 13:36b-43a (AMP)**

*And His disciples came to Him saying, Explain to us the parable of the darnel in the field. He answered, He Who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed means the children of the kingdom; the darnel is the children of the evil one, And the enemy who sowed it is the devil. The harvest is the close and consummation of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the darnel (weeds resembling wheat) is gathered and burned with fire, so it will be at the close of the age. The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all causes of offense [persons by whom others are drawn into error or sin] and all who do iniquity and act wickedly, And will cast them into the furnace of fire; there will be weeping and wailing and grinding of teeth. Then will the righteous (those who are upright and in right standing with God) shine forth like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.*

Jesus' explanation of this Kingdom parable tells us that in his Kingdom on Earth today there are those who are his children and those who are the enemy's. It will be impossible to tell the difference between some of these until the end of the age when they will be separated by what's in their heart, rather than what we observe today.

This enlightens us to be aware that the enemy's people are also in the church<sup>3</sup>. We need to discern and be careful, exposing in the appropriate way those who are these 'ring-ins'<sup>4</sup> because they are 'poisonous' to our Kingdom life together.

To do this we need to judge others, an action that most biblically astute saints will recoil from. But, we must learn to judge righteously to identify error and iniquity. This is appropriate, especially for Elders<sup>5</sup>, but also for the whole church<sup>6</sup>.

There is such a thing as unrighteous judgement<sup>7</sup> which is the type of judgement the Lord warned is not to be involved in<sup>8</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lolium\\_temulentum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lolium_temulentum)

<sup>3</sup> - Revelation 2:15,20

<sup>4</sup> - Revelation 2:6,20

<sup>5</sup> - 1 Corinthians 4:5

<sup>6</sup> - 1 Corinthians 2:15, 5:5,12, 6:2-5; 1 John 5:16

<sup>7</sup> - James 2:4, 4:11; Romans 14:3,4,10,13

<sup>8</sup> - Matthew 7:1

### (3) “The Parable of the Wicked Vinedressers”

#### **Matthew 21:33-46 (AMP)**

*Listen to another parable: There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a hedge around it and dug a wine vat in it and built a watchtower. Then he let it out [for rent] to tenants and went into another country. When the fruit season drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his [share of the] fruit. But the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first time, and they treated them the same way. Finally he sent his own son to them, saying, They will respect and give heed to my son. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, This is the heir; come on, let us kill him and have his inheritance. And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes back, what will he do to those tenants? They said to Him, He will put those wretches to a miserable death and rent the vineyard to other tenants of such a character that they will give him the fruits promptly in their season. Jesus asked them, Have you never read in the Scriptures: The very Stone which the builders rejected and threw away has become the Cornerstone; this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes? I tell you, for this reason the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce the fruits of it. And whoever falls on this Stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom It falls will be crushed to powder [and It will winnow him, scattering him like dust]. And when the chief priests and the Pharisees heard His parables...they perceived that He was talking about them. And although they were trying to arrest Him, they feared the throngs because they regarded Him as a prophet.*

This parable shows that the King can take his Kingdom from whoever doesn't bear the fruit of the Kingdom.<sup>9</sup> In this case he was referring to giving the kingdom to his gentile church (spiritual Israel) because his natural Israel rejected him.

However, this removal from the Kingdom includes us too. We must bear Kingdom fruit or we will be removed<sup>10</sup>. We must assess ourselves continually so we are not lost from the Kingdom<sup>11</sup>. ***The ‘once saved, always saved’ doctrine is clearly not true.***

Laurence  
15-9-13

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<sup>9</sup> - Matthew 21:43, Matthew 7:19, Mark 4:20, Luke 3:8, John 15:16, Romans 7:4

<sup>10</sup> - John 15:2

<sup>11</sup> - 2 Corinthians 13:5