

The Parable of the Householder

Matthew 13:51-52

Although it has taken several weeks to move through the parables Jesus taught in this chapter, I wanted to examine this final parable that serves to wrap up all He has shared with the disciples within this context. He has given them much instruction regarding the Kingdom, some of which was not the easiest to discern.

Like many of the other parables, Jesus uses a simple illustration to convey a profound truth. His time with them was not spent in vain, and Jesus wanted to ensure they had grasped all He had taught them. While we are much like the disciples, having some difficulty fully grasping these great truths, this final parable serves as a challenge and reminder for all who seek to follow Christ and share His truth with those who desperately need to hear.

Let's take a few moments to examine the timeless [truths](#) Jesus shared as we consider: [The Parable of the Householder](#).

I. The Question Posed by Jesus (51) – [Jesus saith unto them, Have ye understood all these things?](#) [They say unto him, Yea, Lord.](#) Consider:

A. The Concern (51a) – [Jesus saith unto them, Have ye understood all these things?](#) As He concludes His thoughts, having shared much with them, Jesus wants to ensure they have understood all He has taught them. Knowing they have experienced some difficulty with the previous parables, He questions whether they have genuinely understood all they have heard.

- This is not a question of disgust or disappointment, but one of genuine concern. Jesus had taken much time instructing the disciples and He wanted to ensure their comprehension of the great truth He had shared with them. He understood their wisdom and understanding was limited and He offered an opportunity for clarification of anything they were unsure about.

- This question challenged me in regard to my study and devotion to the Word of God. The Bible was given by inspiration of God, through the Holy Spirit, for our benefit. I have never met anyone who fully comprehended everything the Bible teaches, but that is no reason to abandon our pursuit of truth. Just as Jesus offered to clarify any question the disciples may have had, the Spirit will impart truth to those who diligently seek wisdom regarding the Scripture. I hope you understand such wisdom is never obtained through hurried, causal reading, but through prayer and commitment to discern the truths within the Scriptures. [2 Tim.2:15 – Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.](#) 2

Tim.3:16 – All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. Rom.15:4 – For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

B. The Confirmation (51b) – They say unto him, Yea, Lord. Having questioned their understanding, the disciples affirmed they had understood the teaching of Christ. It seems very likely the disciples did not fully grasp the great truths Jesus had recently shared, but they were possibly ashamed to admit their inability. One thing is certain – Jesus knew their hearts and their comprehension of truth. However, He took them at their word and did not question them further.

- Again this serves as a challenge to be a student of the Word. The Bible was given by inspiration of God, as men were inspired by the Spirit to pen its words. One cannot possibly understand the Bible apart from spiritual guidance and discernment. When you come across a passage you can't understand, don't just assume it is impossible to grasp. Take time to pray about the particular passage, seeking the Spirit to open your understanding. Spend the necessary time running additional references, in order to discover insight other passages may shed on that difficult text. Many times I have been confused by a passage, but prayer and persistence paid off as the Spirit gave needed insight.

II. The Instruction Presented by Jesus (52) – Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old. Here Jesus offers additional instruction through a final parable in His conversation with the disciples. Consider:

A. The Identification – Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven... Jesus actually compares the disciples, and those who study His Word, to scribes. We don't know how the disciples reacted to this comparison, but it is actually a great compliment and challenge from the Lord. For the most part, these were common, uneducated men. They had not enjoyed instruction from the Rabbis or sat at the feet of those well versed in Scripture, and yet Jesus compares them to a scribe.

- In Jesus' day, scribes were charged with copying the Scriptures. This was a task that was taken very seriously. Much care was taken to copy the text, word for word, to avoid any error in the reproduction. One can imagine with such focus, and time devoted to copying the text, that the scribes would have become very familiar with the text. They were often found teaching and proclaiming the truths of God's Word. A scribe who was devoted to his task would spend much time in the Word and have a deep sense of reverence for the Word.

B. The Instruction (52) – *Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven...* Having compared the disciples to scribes, Jesus reveals the object of their devotion. While many scribes were Pharisees and sought to promote religious tradition as much as the very Word of God, Jesus charged the disciples to be instructed in regard to the kingdom of heaven. They were to be faithful to the cause of Christ and the Gospel. He knew there would be those who sought to hinder their message – desiring them to adopt the ways of old rather than teaching the message of the Gospel. Like the scribes, these men had received instruction from the greatest of teachers. They had intimate knowledge of Christ and His teachings. They were now responsible to share what He had taught them with those who had yet to hear.

- Keep in mind that these were uneducated men when viewed from the world's perspective. They were even considered unlearned and ignorant men following the resurrection of Jesus, but the authorities took note that they had been with Jesus. I am not opposed to formal training and biblical education. I am thankful for the education I have received, and I encourage all who teach and preach the Word to gain all the knowledge and wisdom they can. However, education is not a prerequisite for proclaiming the truths of the Gospel. These men simply proclaimed the things they had seen and heard. *Acts 4:19-20 – But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. [20] For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.* If you are saved by the grace of God, you have all the credentials you need to share the Gospel with others. I am convinced the most compelling witness we can share is what Christ has done for us. Many will still raise those ridiculous questions that you cannot answer, but they cannot deny the change Christ has made in your life.

C. The Illustration (52) – *Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old.* Every scribe, including the disciples, instructed in the kingdom of heaven is likened to a householder. This is a very simple illustration, but it bears profound truth. Jesus refers to the householder meeting the needs of his family or even hosting visitors in his home. In order to do so properly, he brings forth from his belongings both new and old provisions. He offers everything he has at his disposal to meet the needs of those he is obligated to provide for.

- The disciples had learned much that humanity would benefit from already, but their knowledge and wisdom was not yet complete. They could not have possibly grasped the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ at this point. As they continued to walk with Him, their knowledge of the Gospel and the truths pertaining to the kingdom would increase. They must use everything they had learned, and would learn, to reach the world for Christ.
- We must keep in mind, at this point in time, the Old Testament Scriptures were all they had to share. The New Testament gospels, epistles, and the Revelation were not yet written. However,

Jesus knew He was the focus of the entire Bible. Although He is seen through types and pictures many times, the Old Testament reveals the coming of Christ as the Savior of men's souls. He had fulfilled every prophecy regarding His first coming up to this point, and He would fulfill each one to the letter as He offered Himself the sacrifice for our sin. Jesus was teaching the disciples to make much of Him regardless of the text they were teaching from.

- We enjoy the benefit of the entire revelation God desired humanity to possess. We have the complete Word of God. The same principle remains for us today. When we approach any passage of Scripture, we must seek Jesus within the text and proclaim Him. I enjoy studying the New Testament passages, but we must not overlook those rich, informative passages in the Old Testament. They speak of the coming of Christ and the work He will yet perform at the second coming. Many Old Testament passages beautifully illustrate New Testament truth. We must take all we have learned, new and old, to proclaim the Gospel of Christ.

Conclusion: This final parable has challenged me greatly, and I hope it has you as well. We are blessed beyond measure to have the Word of God. We have the very words God desired us to possess. We have a divinely inspired book that reveals the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His provision for the need of humanity. I pray we will be more diligent in our study and proclamation of the Word.

Many argue they would read more if they could understand it better. The Bible is a book that requires spiritual discernment. You must approach it with prayer and a desire to hear from the Lord. If you will remain committed to studying the Word, being diligent in your study, I assure you that the Spirit will open your understanding and provide the insight you need.

We are responsible to share the truth we have received with the world. Do you need strength and guidance to be more effective in sharing what you possess? If so, seek the Lord to help you. If you are yet unsaved, you likely have a hard time comprehending the Bible. If the Lord is dealing with you in regard to salvation, respond to Him in repentance and faith. Come and be saved today. You will not regret a moment lived for the Lord.