

THE PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM
“THE PRIORITIES OF THE
KINGDOM”

Matthew 13:51-52



Theme: Being a disciple of Jesus Christ brings responsibility for properly handling truth.

I. PERSONAL DISCERNMENT PERTAINING TO THE TRUTH
– *13:51*

A. *THE ENLIGHTENMENT TO THE TRUTH – “Have you understood all these things?”*

1. We come here to the end of this section of teaching using parables – Jesus asks the disciples: *“Have you understood?”*
2. *“Understood”* [συνίημι] – lit. “to put things together” or “place things with one another”
3. Remember, He had indicated at the beginning of this section that it is not for everybody to understand the *“mysteries of the Kingdom”* – cp. *vv. 10-13*
 - a. ... that the Kingdom will be rejected by the majority of people; [parable of the Sower]
 - b. ... that the Kingdom will have good and evil in it; [parable of the Wheat & Tares]
 - c. ... that the Kingdom will grow in numbers and permeate the world; [parable of the mustard seed & leaven]
 - d. ... that the Kingdom will be entered by people who recognize the worthlessness of life outside the Kingdom and that salvation is the most valuable thing; [parables of hidden treasure & pearl of great value]
 - e. ... that the final separation of the wicked and righteous is inescapable and that suffering awaits the wicked, while blessing goes to the righteous. [parable of the dragnet]
4. Jesus demonstrates here a desire for His disciples to put “2+2” together and possess discernment concerning truth – cp. *1*

Corinthians 2:6-14

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A. *THE ENTHUSIASM FOR THE TRUTH – “They said to Him, ‘Yes’.”*

1. Immediately the disciples confirm that they were able to understand what Jesus was teaching them – *“They said to Him, ‘yes’”*
2. Later, the disciples display that this understanding was far from perfect – but, Jesus accepted their response as genuine – or He would not have spoken what He said in v. 52.

II. PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP PERSEVERING IN THE TRUTH
– *13:52a*

A. *THE ENTRANCE INTO DISCIPLESHIP – “... And Jesus said to them, ‘Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven’ ...”*

1. In response to them, Jesus clarifies His intention for allowing them to understand the truth – that they are to view themselves as having *“... become a disciple of the Kingdom.”*
2. The reference to “having become a disciple” describes action that is complete – the point at which this position is acquired.
3. We understand that discipleship is at the heart of a person’s relationship with Jesus Christ is established when faith in Christ occurs – cp. *Matthew 28:19*.

B. *THE EVOLUTION OF DISCIPLESHIP*

1. It is clear that discipleship does begin at salvation, but it describes a process that cannot end until we see Christ face to face.
2. *“Every scribe that becomes a disciple”* – used here to describe the disciples – is a person who is a student, an interpreter of the Law, an authority on the Old Testament and tradition.
3. But learning how to interpret the law and handle the Word of God wasn’t adequate in and of itself – a person had to actually commit to the King in order to become a *“disciple of the Kingdom.”*
4. Jesus is implying here that the disciples were unique in that they not only were able to understand the principles of God’s Word (the

job of “*scribes*”), they also had the added dimension of a commitment to the Lord Jesus Himself as His disciples – bringing additional light and relationship with Him – cp. [13:16-17](#).

III. PERSONAL DESIRE TO PUBLISH THE TRUTH – *13:52b*

A. *THE RESPONSIBILITY IN LIGHT OF THE TRUTH* – “... *is like the head of a household ...*”

1. Together with the blessings of knowledge comes the responsibility of knowledge.
2. Here, the disciples of the Kingdom are compared to men who were “*the head of a household*” – the ones responsible for the operation of the house.
3. This signifies the presence of incredible responsibility to properly manage the knowledge they had gained through their relationship with Jesus Christ – and to “*bring forth out of his treasures ...*” describes the riches of that responsibility.
4. “*bring out*” – lit. = “to cast out” or “to spread abroad.”

B. *THE RESOURCES OF THE RESPONSIBLE* – “... *who brings forth out of his treasure things new and old.*”

1. “... *things new and old*” – refers to the “*mysteries of the kingdom*” [new] as well as to the Old Testament truths [old].
2. This indicates that the disciples of the Kingdom were of greater significance than the scribes – who were among the most venerated and revered people in all Israel.
3. In essence, Jesus is telling us: “*You have a tremendous responsibility in light of the knowledge you possess. You are not to hoard the treasures over which I’ve made you an overseer. You are to cast it abroad – fling it out! Let everyone know about it!*”