

The New Testament Church
Kingdom Rising #8 – *The Power of Shining as an Example*
October 8, 2020

I With all that is going on... *we will be examining the kingdom parables of Jesus in Matthew 13*

- A. If politics are the consequences and not causes, *where should be our priorities?*
 - 1. Proverbs 4:18 – **What God has saved us to is greater than what He has saved us from!**
 - 2. Matthew 16:18 – **God is preparing His Ekklesia for victory over the gates of hell!**
 - 3. Hebrews 12:26-29 – **God is shaking and exposing evil as His Kingdom rises!**
- B. Re-claim the vital importance of the heart, mind and simple truths of the Gospel
 - 1. We must dethrone a love of wealth, pleasure, power and evil in our hearts!
 - 2. We need to rehearse key Biblical thought patterns that can direct our minds...
 - 3. Learn to share the gospel through your own parable – your story – testimony (Mt. 13:10-17)
 - 4. We will discern the Kingdom by its balance of the new and old – extremes are of the flesh...
 - 5. In the midst of darkness, seek the light, the hidden treasure of God's Kingdom rising...
 - 6. The Kingdom spreads like leaven – internally – spirit, soul and through relationships
 - 7. Christ is the pearl of Great Price – His attributes are worth seeking at a cost of our lives!

II Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43 – Parable of the Wheat and the Tares

- A. While the parable of the sower focuses on the soil, this parable focuses on the seed
 - 1. The seeds are the righteous – good seed – believers in Christ
 - 2. The sower is again the Son of Man – Jesus – but his goal is to see the fruit of righteousness
 - a. Righteousness is to be right with God – vertically (with Him) and horizontally (behavior)
 - b. Righteousness is first a gift – imputed at conversion – *we are righteous* because of Him
 - c. Righteousness is then a process – imparted in sanctification – we are to *act righteously*
- B. The symbols of the parable
 - 1. The field is the world – the cultures – where the Kingdom is planted
 - a. Note that the gospel of the Kingdom is planted in the soil of the culture
 - b. In this case, however, all cultures have mixture, but good seed *will still* grow
 - 2. The seed are the righteous – the believers – sent forth into all cultures of the world
 - a. We are the seed! What has been produced in and through us is now to be planted
 - b. *We must recognize that when God plants us He plants the example of our character!*
 - 3. The tares are the sons of the wicked one – “*while men slept*” – we are often unaware
 - a. God plants His people in culture, so the enemy plants his – some are truly evil by example
 - b. *Do not be surprised* that wherever wheat comes up, tares come up with it!
 - 4. Is our primary role that pulling out the tares? *Should we focus on the evil?* No
 - a. Yes we stand against evil, and seek to have righteousness prevail, but we do by example
 - b. We don't pull out the tares because we will damage the fruit of the righteous (leaven)
 - 5. The harvest is the end of the age (when Christ shall come)
 - a. Consider the order – in Noah's day and in this parable – evil removed first...
 - b. Regardless of your eschatology – *we must remember it is God's purpose for us to shine...*
 - 6. The reapers are the angels (sent forth by Christ at the end of the age)
 - a. “*He will first gather the tares... harvesting them for judgment*” (He takes out evil first)
 - b. “*Then the righteous will shine as the sun!*” (the power of example is often ignored)
- C. Some truths from this parable are applicable to us today...
 - 1. The gospel of the Kingdom plants believers to influence, and opposition (tares) will arise
 - 2. We are not to try to totally remove evil; for evil defeats itself (Psalm 34:19-22; 94:20-23)
 - 3. God – both ultimately and progressively – removes the tares that the righteous will shine!
 - a. Titus 2:7; Phil. 2:15 – Shine as lights by example - a “*pattern of good works*”
 - b. 1st Timothy 4:12 - An example in word, conduct, love, spirit, faith and purity...