

THE



"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2)

MARCH 1997

No. 135

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE UNTO!

(Author's Note: Please use your Bible when studying this writing as most of the Bible verses are not printed here because of the space they would take up.)

In Matthew we find 11 places where Jesus likens the Kingdom of Heaven unto something that people could understand. He was talking about the earthly side of the Kingdom (the Church) in each place. I have divided these 11 passages into 6 groups to be able to study the different stories in like kind.

THE HARVESTER
1120 Sun Hill Road
Birmingham, AL 35215-4106

NON-PROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID Birmingham AL PERMIT No. 4624

#1. The Value of the Kingdom

- A. Treasure hid in a field (Matt.13:44)
- B. Merchant seeking pearls (Matt.13:45-46)

In both of these we see that the Kingdom is worth everything we have and that we must put everything into it. The things of this world mean nothing. Jesus said in Matt. 16:26, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Once we have found the Kingdom we should be content as Paul wrote to Timothy in I Tim. 6:7-8, "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content." Once we have found the Kingdom we should lay up treasures in Heaven for the rest of our lives.

#2. The Kinds of People in the Kingdom

- A. Tares in the wheat (Matt. 13:24-30)
- B. Net cast into the sea (Matt. 13:47-50)
- C. Ten virgins awaiting the bridegroom (Matt. 25:1-13)

In these 3 we see that inside the Kingdom here on earth there will be all kinds of people: the good and the bad, the wicked and the just, and those who are ready for Christ's coming and those who just think they are. We must be good and just and ready if we expect to be received by Jesus on that day of judgement. God knows our hearts. We cannot hide from him our actions or thoughts. We may be

able to fool those around us but Jesus will judge us on Judgement Day and He will know if we are to be kept in His presence or thrown out into everlasting punishment.

#3. How the Kingdom Will Spread

A. Mustard seed (Matt. 13:31-32)

B. Leaven (Matt. 13:33)

In these 2 we see how Jesus said the Kingdom would grow. From the smallest of seeds (the mustard) grows a tree and leaven when mixed with meal leavened the whole. A seed will grow and leaven will spread but not by themselves. We see that a man had to first plant the seed and a woman had to put the leaven into the meal before they could grow. We as Christians must do the planting and putting in before the Kingdom can grow. It will not grow by itself; it must be planted into the hearts and minds of men and worked.

#4. How God Expects Us to Act

A. Forgiven debts (Matt. 18:23-35)

We see here that if we ask God to forgive us our sins (and he does when we ask him) that he expects us to forgive the sins and trespasses of others toward us. If we do not forgive others, God will not forgive our sins and we will be punished. We must forgive and forget and remember them no more just as God does. God forgives us each time we sin and ask

THE HARVESTER is a monthly publication intended to encourage all men everywhere to become laborers into God's harvest (Luke 10:2). This paper is mailed free of charge to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please submit name, address and all correspondence to:

Ray McManus
301 Varden Hill Road
Birmingham, AL 35214-1947
Phone: (205) 791-1399

forgiveness. We must do the same when our brother sins against us. In Matt. 18:21-22 Peter asks Jesus this question and Jesus answers: *"Then came Peter to Him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, until seven times: but, until seventy times seven."*

#5. All Called to Be in the Kingdom

A. Marriage feast (Matt. 22:1-14)

The Jews were first called into the Kingdom but they rejected Jesus. God then sent out a call to all the world to receive Jesus and to be in the Kingdom. Now everyone has an opportunity to be in the Kingdom but many still reject Jesus and will be punished. It is our responsibility to spread the good news of the Gospel. Jesus commanded His disciples, and it applies to us today, in Mark 16:15-16, *"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."* And in Matt. 28:19-20, *"Go*

ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you."

#6. Our Work and Reward in the Kingdom

A. Laborers and their hire (Matt. 20:1-16)

B. Talents (Matt. 25:14-30)

From these two we see that it is not so important how long we have worked for Jesus in the Kingdom, but how well we worked and how we used our abilities. Everyone does not have the same abilities but Jesus expects us to use what we have to the fullest and to try to gain others. We cannot put off our coming to Jesus by thinking that when we are old we will do what is right and get into the Kingdom for we do not know when time will be no more. *"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only."* (Matt. 24:36) If we hide our abilities and do not use them Jesus will not be happy with us and will treat us as the one-talent man. We must never think that we have done enough for Jesus or we will be in trouble. *"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."* (1 Cor. 10:12)

In conclusion, when we read Matt. 25:31-46 we see how we will stand before Jesus on that great day of judgement. If we have fed the hungry, given drink to the thirsty, clothed the naked, visited the sick whenever the opportunity arose, not

just when it was convenient, we will have done the will of Jesus and when He comes to gather His Kingdom unto Himself, we will inherit the Kingdom prepared for us from the foundation of the world. Jesus wishes that everyone will be saved. That is why we are still on this earth. If we will live for Jesus and obey His will, we will hear Him say to us on Judgement Day, *"Well done good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."*

Ricky Holland
1011 Mangum Ave
Selma, AL 36701

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. What Old Testament prophet had an alias name of Belteshazzar?
2. How many sheep did Nehemiah serve at his table each day?
3. Who is the head of Christ?
4. Who wrote the Scriptures and by what means?
5. As Joshua was defeating the northern kings of the promised land, what did he do to their chariots?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH ...

and remember last month's questions?

1. How many young men did David send to greet Nabal and ask for his favor? TEN (1 Sam. 25:5)
2. Peter says to be clothed with what? HUMILITY (1 Pet. 5:5)

3. What does Job call his friends in his first reply to Zophar? LIARS AND WORTHLESS PHYSICIANS (Job 13:4)

4. What book of the Bible records the story of Paul and Silas in the jail at Philippi? ACTS OF THE APOSTLES (ch. 16)

5. What animal did Gideon use to destroy the idol of Baal? A YOUNG BULLOCK (Judg. 6:25)

DO WE DENY CHRIST?

"Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples." (Matt. 26:35) How many of us have made that same bold and forceful statement, whether in our hearts or by word of mouth? Yet is it possible we have already denied Him through our actions?

It is easy to say we will NEVER deny Him when we are sitting on the church pews listening to a stirring sermon with a Bible in our hands, Christians by our side and God in our hearts. But put us in the outside world and do we still behave like a disciple of Christ? Sometimes we seem to change tunes. Sometimes we tell lies, get drunk, commit fornication, gamble away money, seek revenge, or lust after other people. Other times we might use dirty words, steal material goods, worship idols, or develop fits of jealousy. Such actions are hypocritical and amount to "denying Christ"!

RAY

GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>DATES</u>	<u>PLACE & TIME</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
Feb. 28- Mar. 2	Napolean Church Woodland, AL	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
March 7 - 9	Lake City Church near Atlanta, GA	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
March 28-30	Antioch Church Douglasville, GA	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)

#

DON'T KNOW, CAN'T GO, YOUR SHOW, BY JOE.

The Bible through I could have read,
in just one single year.
But worldly things consumed my time,
they were to me more dear.

Go teach the world, I did not know,
was our Lord's command.
But I can't be concerned with that,
I have other plans.

It's not my fault if souls are lost,
through sinful pride and lust.
Let someone else go set them straight,
It's not required of us.

So if you please, just go your way,
preach to many or few,
For I don't want to be bothered now,
I've other things to do.

R.E. Phillips

(Editor's Note: The above poem is an original, written by one of our readers. Thanks for his permission to share it.)