

Matthew 13: 52 & 53; “The Parable of the Householder”, Session # 5 – “A Scribe Who Does God’s Word”, Presented by Pastor Paul Rendall on October 22nd, 2023, in the Adult Sunday School.

Matthew 13: 52 – “Then He said to them, “Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old.” (NKJV)

Today’s Lesson:

To prepare your heart, as a householder minister, or as a Christian who wants to be faithful, you must not only read the Scriptures, but you must also seek to do what they say.

The Scribe that Jesus is talking about is a minister of the word of God.

I have tried to show you in past sessions that the faithful scribe that Jesus is talking about in this verse, is a faithful New Testament, New Covenant minister in the church of our Lord Jesus Christ. In becoming a pastor, a man’s primary responsibility concerns bringing forth the treasure of the word of God to the whole household that the Lord has placed him over. The household is the local church.

He would be, or is, a pastor or regular minister of the word of God. He is a man who is like the master of a household. In this case, he is overseeing the house of God, in a local church. This scribe in the kingdom of heaven has a treasure of wisdom and knowledge coming from his study of the Scriptures, and his experience in living the Christian life. He can explain many good things about this kingdom, both new and old to all of his household.

1. The Primary Responsibility of the householder, scribe, pastor, is to bring forth the treasure of old things and new things.

The old things and new things are the teaching of both Old Testament and the New. The old things all things relate to the doctrine of God and Christ, as set they are set forth in the Old Testament, revealing Divine Attributes, His holy and righteous character, His justice, His goodness, His mercy, His wisdom, and His purpose in the fullness of time to send forth Christ into this world to be our Savior. The new things relate to all that Christ has done to fulfill the Old Testament law and the prophets, by His fulfilling all righteousness by fulfilling the law. And His bringing His grace and truth into every aspect of the believer’s life, in accordance with the truth of the New Testament Scriptures. All of this is brought forth by the householder pastor.

Matthew 24: 45-47 – “Who then is a faithful and wise servant, (a faithful and wise steward in Luke 12: 42) whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them their food in due season?” “Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.” “Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.” (Ruler over all he has, it says in Luke 12: 42)

The man who is a faithful householder-pastor has, himself, become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven.

(This is how the words, “every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven” can be translated. It can read – “every scribe trained as a disciple of the kingdom”.)

What is a disciple? A disciple is one who is learning the word of God with the intention and goal of becoming a doer of the word, to the glory of God.

The householder pastor has believed the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ for himself, and he has become Christ's disciple. He has become a learner and a follower through faith in Christ and receiving His word. He follows the Lord by holding fast the faithful word, and giving it out in his preaching and teaching and sharing of the truth of the word of God for the holy purpose of building up the believers, and making the church strong spiritually. His reward will be to become ruler over all Christ's goods. He is given the reward of being able to rule well in relation to Christ's kingdom here in this life. He will know fruitfulness in his ministry in the church, and great blessing in fulfilling all of his responsibilities. Because of his faithfulness in this life, he will also come to hold high position, and know Christ's blessing in being able to have a position of authority in the cities of the coming New Earth, in the eternal state. (Luke 19: 16 & 17 – "Then came the first, saying, 'Master, your mina has earned ten minas.'" "And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.'") (The parable of the minas)

The man who is a faithful householder-pastor has, himself, become a disciple of Christ. That is, he has believed the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ for himself, and he has become a learner and a follower through faith in Christ and receiving His word. He follows the Lord by holding fast the faithful word, and giving it out in his preaching and teaching and sharing of the truth of the word of God for the holy purpose of building up the believers, and making the church strong spiritually.

2. The Householder teaches Good Conduct in the house of God.

1st Timothy 3: 14 & 15 – "These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."

3. A faithful minister will be teaching himself and others to put away all sin and become a doer of the word.

James 1: 21-26 – "Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless."

Question # 1 – What is to be the attitude of the true Christian towards sin? (verse 21a)

Ans. It is to obey the word of God's exhortation to put it away.

Question # 2 – What is his attitude to be toward receiving the word? (verse 21b)

Ans. He is to receive it with a view to doing it.

Question # 3 – What are you doing when you are learning to become a doer of the word? (verses 22-25)

Ans. You are looking into the mirror of the word and you try to see what needs to change, and what you need to do to obey God through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Question # 4 – Why is the word of God compared to a mirror in verses 23 & 24?

Ans. Because it show us what we are like and what we would like to do to change to become more faithful and obedient to God and to His word.

There are 2 different Greek words used for “looking” in verses 23 and 25. The one in verse 23 is κατανοουντι . It means simply to observe – The man hears the word, looks at it, and he is like a man passing by a mirror. He sees himself in it, but he doesn’t stop to really gaze and consider what he is looking at. Instead he goes away not thinking about it enough to do something about it. In this case, it would mean his repenting of his sins and to believing in Jesus Christ. But also, then, to then, he goes on to carefully look at the word, and he learns to obey its truth.

The other word in verse 25 is παραμεινας. It means to bend forward and to look very carefully. Much like what you do, men, in shaving your face. Or ladies when you are looking carefully at your face in a mirror. In both cases, you are going to do something to improve your looks. In our text it means looking intently into the mirror of the word of God in order to do something to improve your life by obeying what it says there, and what is commanded by God. You are not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work of obedience.

Question # 5 – Why is the word of God called the perfect of law of liberty in verse 25?

Looking into the perfect law of liberty is looking carefully into what the Scriptures say on every subject. Psalm 19, verse 7 says – “The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.” Jesus said – “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.” “You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.” John 8: 31 & 32. Christ has set us free from our bondage to sin so that we can pursue righteousness and keep God’s commandments. Because our obeying the word of God is directly related to our faith in Jesus Christ, Christ sets us free from the law of sin and death. And then He gives us grace to help us to be more faithful to God when we go about to put it into practice in our lives. He does become our helper in regard to all of our obedience to God’s word and His commandments by the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Question # 6 – What does it mean to look into the perfect law, the law of liberty? What is this law and what will it mean to persevere in it?

Ans. It means to look into the Scriptures, deeply and carefully to find the truth, knowing that the truth and being able to do and keep God’s commandments in the power of Christ’s Spirit will establish us in the true freedom which God intends for every godly person. We then to go about to live out the truth of the Bible in this spirit. It means receiving the word with a view to thinking about how we can put it into practice in our lives, to the glory of God. We are learning to love Him preeminently, and we are seeking to serve Him by means of loving the brethren and loving all men.

Question # 7 – What will be the result, if we are not a forgetful hearer, but an effectual doer?

Ans. We will be blessed in what we do.

4. Looking into the mirror of the word of God will lead you to the Laver, of washing; cleansing yourself from all defilement of flesh and spirit.

Exodus 38: 8 – He made the laver of bronze and its base of bronze, from the bronze mirrors of the serving women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.”

Evidently there were large numbers of women who would assembly at the door of the tabernacle of meeting, who came there for the purpose of devotion and prayer to God for His blessing on the ministration

of the priests and the people at the tabernacle. They saw that there was a great need for bronze in the making of the bronze laver, and so they decided together to bring their own personal bronze mirrors to contribute to the cause of holy worship and service to the Lord. These highly polished mirrors were probably plate sized and they were either melted down and the laver cast from this liquid bronze, or they were somehow affixed to the outside of the laver, or both. But these women's actions showed that they considered it to be of utmost importance that make this statement of giving away these mirrors, to make the laver, to show two things. Their own considering the worship and service of the temple worth this self sacrifice of giving their mirrors. This would show both the Lord, and the priests and other Israelite people that they thought the worship of the Lord to be of more importance, even, than their own having these fine mirrors to gaze at themselves in. And also, that they knew that the priests in coming to wash their hands and feet in the laver would be able to see themselves more clearly; where their spots of uncleanness and defilement really were. It was a good work on their part in every way. The mirror of looking carefully at ourselves should lead us to the laver, so that our spots and sins would be washed away.

Exodus 30: 17-21 – Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base also of bronze, for washing. You shall put it between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar. And you shall put water in it for Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet in water from it. When they go into the tabernacle of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister, to burn an offering made by fire to the Lord, they shall wash with water, lest they die.

You see from these verses how essential it really was, ceremonially, for the priests to wash before their ministered at the altar. They would die if they did not do so. How important it is for any New Covenant, New Testament minister to wash himself spiritually by regular confession of his sins, and prayer to be cleansed by the blood of Christ. Unless I wash you, Jesus said to Peter, you have no part with Me. (John 13: 8)

In reference to Exodus 38: 8, Joseph Parker D.D. says – In many ancient religions women took a leading part in some of the ceremonies. This was so in Egypt. Each woman had a looking-glass made of polished brass, and that mirror was used in some way in connection with idolatrous practices. When the Tabernacle was being built the women gave up their mirrors and so contributed to the formation of the laver, which was made of brass, and the foot of it of brass. Thus we have old things turned to new uses, and it is for us to say whether we shall regard this incident as a piece of ancient history, or whether we shall enter into the spirit of it and realize the action in our own day and on a broader scale. How came the women to give up their looking-glasses to assist in constructing the laver? Because a superior spirit had taken possession of them. That is the philosophy and that the explanation of the case. What then is the spirit that is to enter into us? None other than the spirit of Christ. We might use many words in describing the spirit, but all the words would focalize themselves at last in this sublime expression—“For Christ's sake.” The highest personality is Christ. We follow Him, and in proportion as we follow Him all things we possess are His.

There is room in the sanctuary for everything. This is the point we have so often missed in our Christian teaching. No punishment is burning enough for the men who would belittle God's house. What have you? You have nothing that cannot be used in the building of God's house and kingdom. Have you nothing but the little looking-glass? It can be used. Is yours, on the other hand, but one small flower which a child could pluck? It was God's flower before it was yours, and He will never consent to lose a flower; it cost Him thought and care and love; He dressed the flower as Solomon never could dress himself. Blessed will be the day when the breweries of the country are turned into mechanics' institutes, great sanitary establishments for the washing and cleansing of the people. Blessed will be the day when the rich man's saloons shall be thrown open to the poorest neighbors, *and* he has who will come to look at his articles of vertu, (*meaning – force, strength, and vigor; his productions of art or antique nature*) who will turn over

his curiosities and examine them with honest fingers, and so admire them as to be touched into desire for broader life.

Joseph Parker goes on to say – Blessed, bright will be the day when in that sense we shall have all things common; when the strong man's strength shall be the weak man's refuge; when the homeless shall have a large home in the charity and love of his richer brother; when the one object of every heart will be to extend the happiness of mankind—the one question in the morning being, What good can be done to-day? and the one question at eventide, What good has been accomplished? My persuasion is that if ever that time is to be brought about, it can only be by the extension of the spirit of Jesus Christ. Taking the Christian view, all becomes larger still and brighter, and the hope is given that one day everybody will be in the kingdom, and every man, woman, and child, will be doing their very best to make that kingdom what God means it to be. The great men, by heroic strength, by dauntless valor, will carry on their sublime occupation; the patient women—gentle souls, having the genius of sympathy and the faculty of interpreting by suffering—will contribute their important, their ineffably valuable share; and little children will make up the sum total of the consecration.