

**Hidden Hills Sovereign Grace Baptist Church**  
**Sunday Sermon**

**Date: December 5, 2021**

**Text: Matthew 13:51-52**

**Scripture Reading: Matthew 13:51-52**

**Subject: Have ye understood all these things?**

**Matthew 13:51 (KJV) *Jesus saith unto them, Have ye understood all these things? They say unto him, Yea, Lord.***

**Jesus saith unto them,** -- That is, he says this to his disciples who had been brought into the house apart from the multitude to hear his explanation. Doubtless, the twelve apostles were the disciples spoken of or were included in the group of the disciples.

**have ye understood all these things?** -- All the parables our Lord had delivered, besides those he had given a particular explanation of; as of the mustard seed, and leaven, of the treasure hid in the field, the pearl of great price, and the net cast into the sea: Christ's asking this question to his disciples, shows that the things delivered, had some difficulty in them; that they were of great importance to be understood. How concerned he was that they should understand them! Doubtless, Jesus was ready to instruct them further about them. Why is that? We think Jesus knew these things would be very useful to them in their ministry as the apostles of his church afterwards.

**they say unto him, yea, Lord.** -- Blessing to read this! This answer was, without doubt, truly and faithfully made. Their answer is proof of their close and strict attention to the words of Christ. It speaks of the quickness of their understandings. We would agree with this, would we not? Our Lord knew, when he asked the question to them that they had understood, but he doubtless desired to have them express it themselves? Why do I say that? It

was fitting for his words to them in the next verse – which we will consider at the end of the message today.

**Matthew 13:52 (KJV)** *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.*

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Let us now consider the parables briefly in their order:

### **THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER:**

**Matthew 13:18-23 (KJV)** Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. **19** When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth *it* not, then cometh the wicked *one*, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. **20** But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; **21** Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. **22** He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. **23** But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth *it*; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

This first parable does not include the statement “The kingdom of heaven is likened unto...” but we know it pertains to the kingdom because the LORD said this to his disciples:

**Matthew 13:10-13 (KJV)** *And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? 11 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. 12 For whosoever hath, to him shall be given,*

*and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. **13** Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.*

In the parable of the sower, we see the seed is the word of God, which when preached falls on four different kinds of soil. (The soil represents the souls of men). Some seed fell on the wayside where it was immediately snatched away by the devil; some fell on stony ground where it had no root so endured only for a time until they the hearers became offended by the word; some fell among thorns which, like the lust for riches and cares of this life choked the word so it became unfruitful; but some fell on good ground where it brought forth fruit some thirty, some sixty, and some an hundred fold as Mark tells us. Thus we see that the purposeful sowing of the seed (the word of God) has and shall result in a very small increase. This parable sets forth the idea of the seed sown in the kingdom of heaven and that idea continues to the end. It is what we may expect of our efforts to sow the seed – most will not bring forth fruit. Thanks be to God that every one of His elect shall be brought to him and shall hear the gospel, repent of their sins, believe on Christ and follow him.

### **PARABLE OF THE TARES IN THE WHEAT**

**Matthew 13:36-43 (KJV)** Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field. **37** He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; **38** The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked *one*; **39** The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. **40** As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it

be in the end of this world. **41** The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; **42** And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. **43** Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

In this parable, we saw that the son of man sowed the good seed – and the good seed are the children of the kingdom. An enemy, the wicked one, the Devil, sowed among the children of the kingdom tares – called darnel, reprobate wheat. Notice the field into which they are sown is the world, not the church. The tares cannot be totally recognized until they mature and bring forth fruit. Thank God that in the end of this age, the son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather OUT OF HIS KINGDOM all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; and shall cast them into a furnace of fire; there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their father.

### **PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED**

**Matthew 13:31-32 (KJV)** Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: **32** Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.

In the third parable, the parable of the mustard seed, we see that this seed was sown in the field which represents the world. It grew to great proportion and became a tree – a monstrosity. It was no longer what it was planted to be – an herb, but it is a tree. In this tree the birds (fowls – representing the devil’s emissaries) come

and lodge in the branches of it. This shows us that the kingdom has in it wicked men who hold to and preach false doctrine thereby polluting the good and right doctrine.

### **PARABLE OF THE LEAVEN IN THE MEAL**

**Matthew 13:33 (KJV)** Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

In this fourth parable we see a woman (a woman is out of place in preaching or teaching in the kingdom of God). This woman took the three measures of meal which represent the good and correct doctrine of the kingdom, and she introduced into the meal leaven (wickedness, evil) till the whole was leavened. This shows us that out of place people will cause the faith once delivered unto the saints to be corrupted by false doctrine during the course of the kingdom of heaven while the LORD is away.

### **PARABLE OF THE TREASURE IN THE FIELD**

**Matthew 13:44 (KJV)** Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

The treasure hidden in the field is the nation of Israel. We saw it hidden in Jacob both in Padam-Aram and in Egypt where the LORD actually formed his nation and brought them out. They were later hidden in Babylonian Captivity and when the LORD came with the message of the kingdom of heaven to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, he hid them. What does that mean? He judged the nation for their unbelief and rejection of the king and subsequently scattered them among all the gentile nations at the hand of Titus, son of Vespasian, the Roman Emperor who besieged and sacked Jerusalem. Then the man who found them, Jesus Christ, for the joy of this treasure went and sold all that he had and bought the field –

that is the world. We remember that Israel has been scattered and hidden until the LORD returns at which time he shall come back to Israel in Jerusalem and be king over all the earth with his saints.

### **PARABLE OF THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE**

**Matthew 13:45-46 (KJV)** Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: **46** Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

The merchant man seeking goodly pearls is the Lord Jesus Christ, the same man who sowed the good seed. Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it. That pearl is the church – that is, the church of the firstborn or all of the saints in the Lord's churches. A pearl is a special gem which is formed in the depths of the ocean in the muck and mire, out of sight of men. It come from an injury to the oyster when a foreign element, perhaps a grain of sand causes a wound. The oyster emits nacre, layer after layer, which covers the wound and eventually become a beautiful pearl. The church is aptly represented as the pearl of great price because of its unity – if it were cut or severed, that would destroy it in a manner unlike any of the jewels of the earth. Notice that the man sold all he had and bought it. He became poor that we might be made rich. We, his people, are God's inheritance for whom he had prepared unspeakable things to be realized in the ages to come. City of Gold, huge, vast and unprecedented – the father's house of many mansions (rooms for Lords – because he has washed us from our sins in his blood and made us unto our God both kings and priests). Hallelujah! Hallelujah!!

### **PARABLE OF THE DRAG NET**

**Matthew 13:47-50 (KJV)** Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: **48** Which,

when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away. **49** So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, **50** And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

In the preceding message from Matthew 13:47-50, we considered the parable of the Drag Net – the 7<sup>th</sup> and final of the seven kingdom parables. We preached what we considered to be the right explanation of this parable. It is common knowledge to those of us who study and search for truth in the scriptures before preaching that there is a wide variance of opinions written by very learned and able men. Certainly, they do not all agree. I hope that I am not so filled with pride that I do not understand that I could be wrong about some of this, but, at this point, I think I am right. I have been greatly helped by the studies of others in the preparation of the messages heretofore; Brother Arthur W. Pink, now with the LORD, has greatly helped me. I believe he had the right perspective on the seven parables. But, Pink was a man like us and was therefore subject to failings.

I am assured you will agree with me that the last parable had two distinct parts in terms of time. Let's read it again:

***47 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: 48 Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away. 49 So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, 50 And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Matthew 13:47-50 (KJV)***

This phrase tells us that there is a distinction of time in the parable: "So (which means "in the same way") shall it be at the end of the world:" with the explanation which follows. Please notice that the angels, at the end of the age, do nothing to the "good fish," but simply sever the wicked from among the just. That is significant.

At some point in time, the "good fish" were recognized and placed in vessels. BTW, I do not believe that preachers put people in the churches, but I do believe and have experienced that the churches look to their pastors for recommendations on prospective church members. I think that could be the sense. At some point, the "bad fish" were somehow recognized and "cast away." In other words, they were not put in the same "vessel" as the "good fish."

The severing of the wicked from among the just is seen most clearly in the judgment of the nations recorded in Matthew 25:31-46. This section of scripture is in the same context as the whole of Matthew 24 and 25 – and is with respect to the kingdom of heaven. Evidently the angels of God are employed in gathering the wicked and then casting them away into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels as Matthew 25 clearly tells us.

This past parable, I believe, shows us an overall picture of what is happening during our Lord's absence and what will happen at the end of the age. The gospel net, cast into the sea (the gentiles) gathers of every kind. Which when it was full, they (who is that) drew to the shore, and sat down. Why did they set down? They sat down to deliberate and come to understand the difference between the good fish and the bad fish. The good fish, they gathered into vessels – which we believe to be churches where they can continue to grow in grace and knowledge of the LORD. The "bad fish" they cast away, that is, they were not gathered into vessels. At the end of the age, in the same way, the angels are



said to come forth and sever the wicked from among the just (out of the kingdom) and shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. I consider this to be the time when the LORD returns with all his holy angels and with the saints to judge the living nations of the gentiles wherein the angels shall cast away the wicked from among the just. Thus, the reign of Christ on this earth begins – the kingdom of heaven!

What a blessed thought! This is the time when the saints of God shall judge the world! This is the time when all the saints of God who have kept the Lord's work unto the end shall be given power over the nations and they shall reign with Jesus Christ over the nations with a rod of iron! This is most comforting to us especially in light of this present evil world. This will begin the new age on this earth – a thousand years reign of Christ sometimes referred to by students of the Bible as the seventh day – the earth's great sabbath! Earth has had her six days since creation, that is, 6000 years – and the seventh day is a day of rest and peace like the world has never known. This is the LORD's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes.

Since we have understood these things, let us consider the 52<sup>nd</sup> verse.

**Matthew 13:52 (KJV) *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.***

***Then said he unto them,*** -- They had answered his question "Have ye understood all these things?" by a "Yea, Lord," Since the disciples had such a clear understanding of these parables, and therefore, were by them, and by other things, so well furnished to

preach the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven to others, Christ encourages them.

**Therefore every scribe** – The scribes were often mentioned by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. These are men of learning who, in some cases, had transcribed the scriptures and were very knowledgeable in them. But the scribes of the law and not the meaning of our Lord, he is referring to his disciples being like these learned scribes.

**which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven** -- The instruction of the kingdom of heaven is a blessing to Jesus' disciples only and not to the multitudes. Blessed are the eyes of his people for they have seen and understood, while the multitudes cannot and do not hear nor perceive. There can be no doubt that these "ignorant and unlearned men" – the followers of Jesus did grasp the truth of the parables of the kingdom as Jesus explained them and spoke them. They understood the true nature of his teachings.

**is like unto a man that is an householder,** -- That is, they are like a man who has an household or family under his care, as the apostles and pastors of churches who have been chosen of the churches to minister, and which is the church of God, the house of God, the pillar and ground of the truth. The church is called the household of God, the household of faith, a spiritual house, and a family; consisting of fathers, young men, and children; of which indeed Christ is properly the householder and master, but Gospel ministers are servants under him, and under him feed the flock and tend the household. These have the oversight of the house of God, and are charged with feeding the flock of God; to provide spiritual food for them, and protect and defend it; all which requires God-given gifts and abilities, great love and affection, both to Christ and his people. God has given these householders wisdom, prudence,

and knowledge; and great faithfulness and integrity, courage and firmness of mind.

***Which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old.***

– These householders in learning by diligence, study and provision of the Holy Ghost are able to bring forth from their treasure of knowledge, experience and grace things suited for every individual in the house of God; little children, young men, wives, fathers and mothers, yea, even eunuchs; each according to his need shall be provided with food for his soul by the householder. Every doctrine, that which is considered both milk and meat is brought forth; grace and comfort to help the weak; things of the kingdom of heaven to encourage all of us in such times as these in which we live; and strong meat to those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern good and evil – things new and old.

Praise God for the privilege which the LORD allowed me in preaching through this 13<sup>th</sup> chapter while laboring and studying to show myself approved unto God, a workman who needeth not to be ashamed; rightly dividing the word of truth. Let me say this: If you think you need me to go over this with you, one on one, I will be most happy to do so. Just tell me. God bless you all. Let me urge you – in spite of the fact that most will not hear the gospel of grace; that most of the kingdom is and has been corrupted by the leaven of false doctrine – in our preaching and witnessing, let us remember that every single one of God's elect shall hear and shall come. Every one of them belongs to Christ by the eternal covenant of redemption. Let us, like the apostle Paul endure all things for the elects sake that they may have the salvation given them from the foundation of the world! Consider this:

**John 6:37 (KJV)** All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

**John 10:15-16 (KJV)** As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. **16** And other sheep **I have**, which are not of this fold: **them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.**

**John 17:20-22 (KJV)** *Neither pray I for these alone, **but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;** 21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. 22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:*

A final word to the unsaved who hear this message. I pray it will be the will of God that He opens your spiritual eyes so that you can see and perceive; that he will open your spiritual ears so that you will hear and understand. Like all of us, you are a sinner – a son of the first Adam; and because you are born a sinner, you do and will commit sin. You have no power nor will to save yourself, but if you understand that you are, in your present condition, without hope, I urge you to call on the Lord Jesus Christ who came into the world to save sinners. All who believe on Jesus Christ; call on him; and confess him with the mouth will be saved. Will you do that? If you have believed, will you confess it? Will you follow him in Baptism? Will you then, unite with this church and glorify him in your life? May it be so!