

Providence Reformed Baptist Church – Sunday, February 19, 2023
Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew
Message 80. Do You Understand the Parables? – Matthew 13:31-35, 44-52
Pastor Phillip M Way

The Kingdom of Heaven is like...

- I. The Dangerous Influence of Evil – vs. 31-33 [bracketed between the parable/explanation of the wheat and tares]
 - A. Mustard Seed (vs. 31-32)
 1. Smallest Garden Seed
 2. Abnormal Growth – from a shrub to a tree
 - a. Size, money, programs
 - b. Structure, business model and methods
 - c. What defines success if ministry?
 - 1) Spiritual fruit
 - 2) Faithfulness and obedience
 - 3) Growth = depth
 3. Birds – see vs. 4, 19
 - B. Yeast (vs. 33)
 1. How leaven works – Gal. 5:9
 2. None of the burnt sacrifices used leaven – Exodus 34:25; Leviticus 2:11 (peace offering and first fruits allowed leavened bread, but not sacrifices for sin)
 3. Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread – Exodus 12:15, 19-20
 4. Leaven = hypocrisy and false doctrine – 1 Cor. 5:6-8; Luke 12:1; Matt. 16:12
- II. Parables and Prophecy – vs. 34-35
 - A. Secrets
 - B. Things to Come in the Kingdom
- III. The Priceless Gospel – vs. 44-46
 - A. Treasure
 1. An accidental find – Isa. 65:1
 2. The most valuable thing
 - B. Pearl
 1. A deliberate search
 2. The most valuable thing
 - C. Finding Christ
 1. They recognized the value
 2. They desired to have it – Hymn Quote #1
 3. They sold everything to get it – Hymn Quote #2
 4. They acquired the treasure
- IV. Judgment – A Sure Separation – vs. 47-50
 - A. The Dragnet – good and bad drawn into the boat
 - B. The End of the Age
 1. Angels Separate
 2. Good is Kept
 3. Bad is Thrown into the Fire – weeping and gnashing of teeth
- V. Do You Understand? – vs. 51-52
 - A. Are You Sure You Understand? – Prov. 2:1-22
 - B. You Have Treasures to Share

Cross References

Galatians 5:9

9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump.

Exodus 34:25

25 “You shall not offer the blood of My sacrifice with leaven, nor shall the sacrifice of the Feast of the Passover be left until morning.

Leviticus 2:11

11 ‘No grain offering which you bring to the Lord shall be made with leaven, for you shall burn no leaven nor any honey in any offering to the Lord made by fire.

Exodus 12:15

15 Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses. For whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel.

Exodus 12:19-20

19 For seven days no leaven shall be found in your houses, since whoever eats what is leavened, that same person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a stranger or a native of the land. 20 You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwellings you shall eat unleavened bread.’ ”

1 Corinthians 5:6-8

6 Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? 7 Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. 8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Luke 12:1

12 In the meantime, when an innumerable multitude of people had gathered together, so that they trampled one another, He began to say to His disciples first of all, “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

Matthew 16:12

12 Then they understood that He did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Isaiah 65:1

65 “I was sought by those who did not ask for Me; I was found by those who did not seek Me. I said, ‘Here I am, here I am,’ To a nation that was not called by My name.

Proverbs 2

1 My son, if you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you, 2 So that you incline your ear to wisdom, And apply your heart to understanding; 3 Yes, if you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding, 4 If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures; 5 Then you will understand the fear of the Lord, And find the knowledge of God. 6 For the Lord gives wisdom; From

His mouth come knowledge and understanding; 7 He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly; 8 He guards the paths of justice, And preserves the way of His saints. 9 Then you will understand righteousness and justice, Equity and every good path. 10 When wisdom enters your heart, And knowledge is pleasant to your soul, 11 Discretion will preserve you; Understanding will keep you, 12 To deliver you from the way of evil, From the man who speaks perverse things, 13 From those who leave the paths of uprightness To walk in the ways of darkness; 14 Who rejoice in doing evil, and delight in the perversity of the wicked; 15 Whose ways are crooked, And who are devious in their paths; 16 To deliver you from the immoral woman, From the seductress who flatters with her words, 17 Who forsakes the companion of her youth, And forgets the covenant of her God. 18 For her house leads down to death, And her paths to the dead; 19 None who go to her return, Nor do they regain the paths of life— 20 So you may walk in the way of goodness, And keep to the paths of righteousness. 21 For the upright will dwell in the land, And the blameless will remain in it; 22 But the wicked will be cut off from the earth, And the unfaithful will be uprooted from it.

Hymn Quotes:

1. I sought the Lord, and afterward I knew
He moved my soul to seek Him, seeking me;
It was not I that found, O Savior true;
No, I was found of thee.
2. Let goods and kindred go,
This mortal life also,
The body they may kill;
God's truth abideth still:
His Kingdom is forever.