

Sunday November 13th, 2005

Matthew 13 Part 13
'Have You Understood All These Things?'

1). Mt 13:51 *Jesus said to them, "Have you understood all these things?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." 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."*

2). At the conclusion to the parabolic sequence in Matthew 13 Jesus ask His disciples the question, 'Have you understood all these things?' To which they give an affirmative response, 'Yes Lord'

a). Let's be clear what it is they have understood

Mt 13:11 *He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven,*

Mt 13:35b.... *"I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world."*

b). Let us be clear then – this is not a simple case of comprehension. 'Did you understand the words?' but a question concerning the spiritual perception of God's prophetic revelation.

c). 1Co 2:13 *These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.*

d). Such a spiritual perception, that 'which the Holy Spirit teaches', only comes from above, it is brought forth out of God - Joh 1:12 *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

Joh 3:3 *Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again (Brought forth from above), he cannot see the kingdom of God."* (Explain the context)

e). And would of course be linked to those who would hear –

Mt 13:9 *"He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"*

3). This is exactly what we see in Matthew 16 - Mt 16:16 *Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.*

Again the wisdom the Holy Spirit teaches.

a). And with the disciples on the road to Emmaus after the resurrection - Lu 24:30 *Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.* - It was the One from above, God the Son, who opened their eyes to interpreting the scriptures by giving them the keys of understanding. – Lu 24:27 *And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.*

b). Something He did for the rest of the disciples that very same day Lu 24:4 *Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." 45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.*

4). In our scripture today the Lord then makes a concluding statement based on their answer, ‘Therefore..’

"Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old."

a). And what we see then is a process. Those who would understand all these things, who will grasp the word of the kingdom, will possess a key to unlocking more and more of scripture.

5). We should note that the disciples who heard the Matthew 13 parables ‘understood’, but their understanding was further opened after the Lord’s resurrection as He showed them how to comprehend the scriptures. They were in a place where they were able to bring out of their treasure things new and old.

a). And here we find the fulfillment of what the Lord spoke in Matthew 13 - Mt 13:12 *"For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; - there is great encouragement in this.*

6). Now we can see exactly the same process in our own experience.

a). We are as a consequence of what is written in Revelation 3 – Re 3:20 *"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.*

b). We have heard His voice in respect of the word of the kingdom and have opened the door of our hearts to let Him in.

c). For some of us our understanding of His kingdom truth may only be in its infancy and for others it may be much more advanced. But what it has given us all is the key to unlocking the scriptures that we may grow into maturity and be steadfast in the faith.

d). Our unlocking of the scriptures continues as a work from above Joh 16:13 *"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.*

e). This is still a work from above as the treasure from which we draw is above –

Col 2:1 ¶ *For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, 2 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (Teach this)*

i/ Pr 4:7 *Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding. 8 Exalt her, and she will promote you; She will bring you honor, when you embrace her. 9 She will place on your head an ornament of grace; A crown of glory she will deliver to you."*

f). And how would we draw from this treasure? Through prayerful study of the word

Lu 11:9 *"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 11 "If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 "Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"*

g). Perhaps now we would understand Paul's prayer for the Ephesians - Eph 1:17 *that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, (to those who ask Him)*

i/ And his own heart cry in Php 3:8 *Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 ¶ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness,*

which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. (Teach this)

h). What does Ephesians admonish us? - Eph 5:18 *And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,*
(to those who ask Him)

Which we know happens as a result of Colossians 3:16 - Col 3:16 *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom,*

7). And let us not forget it is the word of Christ that is the very foundation of His Church - Mt 16:15 *He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"*
16 *Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."* 17 *Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." 20 Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ. (v20 – because this can only be revealed from above) (Teach this).*

a). v 20

b). The keys of the kingdom of heaven – 2 parts

c). The distinction between the called out and His called out – ‘many are called but few are chosen (called out).’

8). In the midst of our euphoria at seeing the scriptures open before our eyes let us remember that in this race of faith there are winners and losers and winning is not the accumulation of knowledge but continual faithful obedience. Many who come into knowledge of kingdom truth will be denied a position with Christ.

a). Ga 5:7 *You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?*

b). Re 2:4 *"Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.*

c). Heb 4:11 ¶ *Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.*

9). We would do well to remember the admonition of James

Jas 2:20 *But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? 22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? 23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God. 24 You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.*

a). Remember faith and belief are one and the same thing. It is not enough for us to believe what God has said concerning His kingdom alone. What we have believed, the faith we have, must be translated into action, what the scriptures call works. It was Abraham acting upon his faith, his belief, concerning what God said about Isaac that made his faith perfect or brought his faith to completion. And it is only through our faith being brought to completion that we will achieve the salvation of our souls –

1Pe 1:9 *receiving the end of your faith--the salvation of your souls.*

b). That's why we must be - Jas 1:22 *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.* (Teach this)

b). 1Pe 1:13 ¶ *Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; 15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy." 17 And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear;*

c). Heb 10:26 *For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. 28 Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The LORD will judge His people." 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

d). We should take this warning in Hebrews very seriously because it would not be there if it were not possible. The Lord through His grace and mercy has provided us with an enormous key for the unlocking of scripture. Our

understanding of the word of the kingdom, at what ever stage it is, enables us to read and bring out of the enormous treasure of His word things that we already knew, things that the word of the kingdom confirm for us and also allows us to see things and understand things that we had never seen before. Things we may just have missed or things that caused us confusion. Those scriptures we were told we were not meant to understand just open up before our eyes as the word pictures of the OT find their fulfillment in the pages of the new. Every one of us has experienced bringing out something new from the treasure of the word.

e). This is always so very exciting and an experience that goes beyond our wildest expectations. But the Lord opens these scriptures from above not just for our intellectual gratification, but also to call us to repentance, to obedience, to life change.

f). Obedience is not a burden it is a privilege. It took the death of God to make possible.

10) He calls us and draws us just like the oldest servant in Genesis 24 displaying his master's goods, making known the inheritance - 1Co 2:9 *But as it is written: Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." 10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. The treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

a). He calls us and draws us just like the ardent lover wooing His bride Song 4:7 *You are all fair, my love, And there is no spot in you. 8 ¶ Come with me from Lebanon, my spouse, With me from Lebanon. Look from the top of Amanah, From the top of Senir and Hermon, From the lions' dens, From the mountains of the leopards.9 You have ravished my heart, My sister, my spouse;*

b). Demonstrating the enormity of His love for us through His sacrifice Heb 12:2b.. *who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

(Teach this in relation to the bride)

11). Remember our God is also righteous and just in all His dealings and without partiality - Ro 11:22 *Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.*

a). Our rejection of what He has made possible for us is a rejection of His Divine authority and there would be no choice but for us to be cast into the furnace of fire for the Millennial age. Justice would demand it.

b). Our love for Him is not expressed merely in words –

Joh 14:21 *"He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me.*

Pr 8:21 *That I may cause those who love me to inherit wealth, That I may fill their treasuries.*

12). As we see throughout scripture the choice is one of obedience or disobedience, faithfulness or unfaithfulness. There is a choice to make.

Ro 12:2 *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

– The perfect will of God is that we should have dominion as co-heir with His Son. The transformation, literally metamorphosis, of our mind will be an experiential proof of His will now and an absolute proof as its result will enable us to ascend the throne with Christ in that Day.

a). The not conforming, patterning our life after, this world is an action of our own free will. The transforming, the metamorphosis of our mind is a work brought forth from above. Effected by the Spirit of God as He continues to be breathed into us through the word.

b). Jas 1:21 *Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.* (Teach this)

13). This implanted word, the word of the kingdom, is the central message of the NT and the primary focus of God's revelation to man. And has been throughout the subject of our study of the parables of Matthew 13.

a). And we have seen through the Sower, the Wheat and Tares, The Mustard Seed and The Leaven the extraordinary lengths the enemy of our souls will go to prevent this word producing fruit, especially in those who will hear it. And we are not exempt.

10). As we come to the end of our study of the parables of Matthew 13 there remains just one question to be answered – 'Have you understood all these things?'