

“The Kingdom of God!”

Part 16: “Blessed are your eyes and ears!”

Matthew 13:1-58



Introduction: “For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few” (Matthew 7:13-14).

There are TWO groups of people in the world: the majority, who do not know, love or serve God ... and the minority, who by His amazing love and grace have been given eyes to see and ears to hear!!

Blessed are those to whom God has revealed the secrets of the kingdom!!

There is no greater privilege, no greater joy, nothing more humbling, than being one of God’s children, saved by grace through faith in Jesus!

I. The Purpose of the Parables ...

Matthew 13:10-11: “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given” (vs. 11).

Isaiah 6:9-10; Matthew 13:14-15 ... Jesus spoke in parables to reveal the secrets of the kingdom to a select few.

Matthew 11:25-27: “... no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him” (vs. 27; Matthew 10:34-39).

The Gospel calls believers to lay down our lives for Jesus Christ, to surrender ALL we are and ALL we have to HIM ... to love and serve Him, and to testify to the world that HE IS LORD!!!

Why choose the narrow gate and the hard way? **II Corinthians 4:3-6** ... “For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ!” (vs. 6; See also vss. 7-11, 16-18).

Jesus taught in parables so that only those who had been born again by His Spirit could and would understand what He was saying.

II. The Teaching of the Parables ...

Matthew 13:18-23 ... Jesus explains that there are two groups of people: those who are good soil and those who are not.

Groups 2 and 3 may appear for a while to be good soil ... but ... these two groups don’t last, they don’t endure, they don’t persevere!

Hebrews 6:4-8: “Land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop ... receives a blessing from God. But if it bears thorns and thistles ... its end is to be burned!” (vss. 7-8).

Within the fourth group are differences, but they all have one thing in common: they bear fruit for God’s kingdom!

Those who know the “*secrets of the kingdom*” will read and study and learn and grow because Jesus also teaches the VALUE of the kingdom.

Matthew 13:44-46: “In his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field!!” (vs. 44).

Your life is now a response to God’s love in Christ Jesus!!

Jesus also taught about the coming separation at the end of the age ...
Matthew 13:47-50 ...

III. YOUR response to Jesus’ parables ...

Your response to Jesus’ teaching, to His call to follow Him, reveals your position, either in His kingdom or outside.

Matthew 13:54-58 ... They were offended by Jesus ... by what He said and what He taught.

Every person who is part of the Church, the Body of Christ, will be motivated to worship with God’s people and in their daily living!

Every follower of Jesus will have a desire to know what Jesus says, to make the study of God’s Word a priority.

Everyone who confesses the name of Jesus Christ will understand that the King is coming and we are called to tell others of Jesus and the one and only way of salvation and entrance into God’s kingdom!!

Blessed are those to whom God has revealed the secrets of His kingdom!!