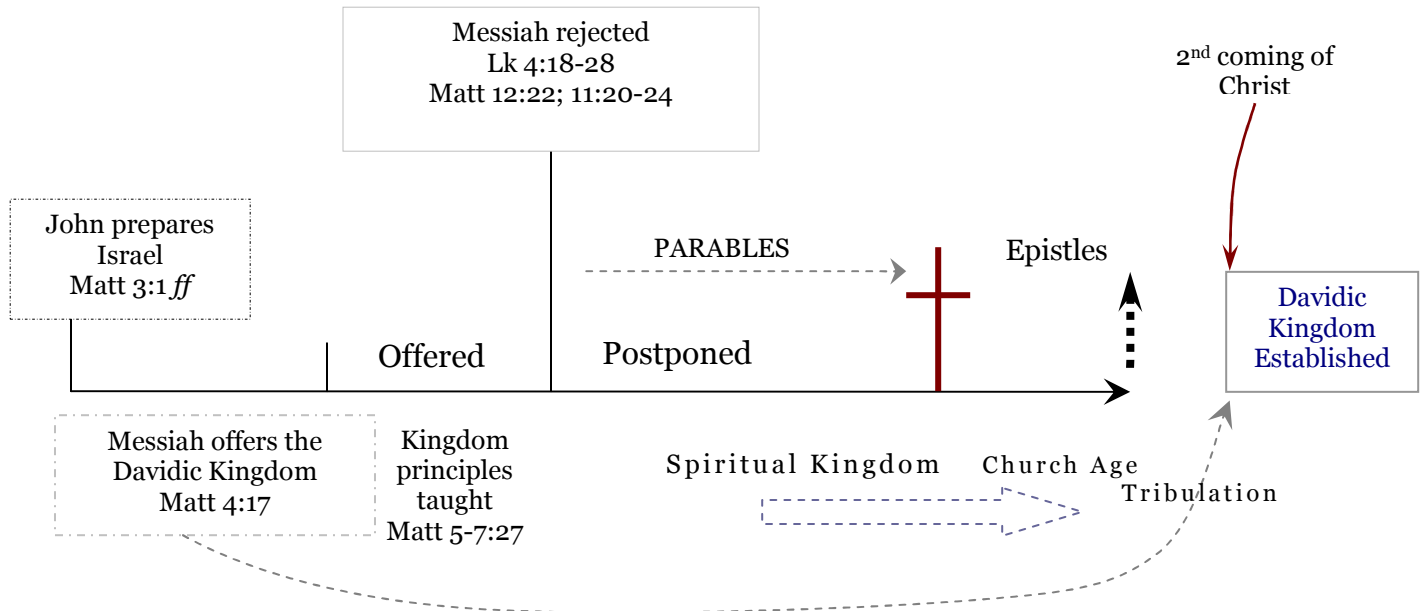


It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Isaiah 55:11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.



- The Lord is in Capernaum.
- The crowd has become so great that He and the disciples are unable to eat.
- According to **Matt. 12:22**, He has just healed a demon possessed man – an exercise of His authority over the angelic world.
- The religious leaders in **Matt. 12:24** attribute the miracle to Satan and accuse the Lord of being demon possessed.
- He states in **Matt. 12:31-32**, that this sin is blasphemy against the Spirit and shall not be forgiven.

Note the four witnesses to who Christ was -

1. God the Father's (Matt 3:17 & Luke 9:35)
2. God the Son's (Luke 4:17-21)
3. God the Holy Spirit's (Matt 3:16 cf. John 1:33; Matt 12:22 cf. 28)
4. John the Herald's (John 1:19 – 36)

So, the Lord rejects them as an evil and adulterous generation in **Matt 12: 39**.

Matt 12: 39-40 But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet; ⁴⁰ for just as JONAH WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE SEA MONSTER [HUGE FISH], so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

- This is the point at which the kingdom is no longer offered to Israel.
- The kingdom He now speaks of is not an earthly kingdom but a spiritual kingdom.
- The earthly kingdom is composed of subjects who are related to Him by blood - physical descendents of Abraham.
- The spiritual kingdom is composed of subjects who are related to Him by spiritual regeneration.

Matthew 12:46-50 While He was still speaking to the crowds, behold, His mother and brothers were standing outside, seeking to speak to Him. ⁴⁷ Someone said to Him, “Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside seeking to speak to You.” ⁴⁸ But Jesus answered the one who was telling Him and said, “Who is My mother and who are My brothers?” ⁴⁹ And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, “Behold My mother and My brothers! ⁵⁰ For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother.”

- Not by blood but by spiritual regeneration
- The will of the Father is to believe in His only begotten Son.
- When we believe in the Son, we are spiritually regenerated and related to Christ.
- We become members of His spiritual family and kingdom.

Matthew 13:1-2 That day Jesus went out of the house and was sitting by the sea [Sea of Galilee].

- The day He healed the demon possessed man and was rejected
- The day He rejected the nation as being evil and adulterous
- The day the kingdom He would rule from David’s throne was no longer to be offered to the generation who rejected Him
- The day that kingdom was postponed



² And large crowds gathered to Him,

- ὄχλοι – OCHLOS – “Throngs; multitudes of people”

- πολὺς – POLUS – “Great; many”
- The ὄχλοι πολλοὶ is a reference to thousands of people.

Just because there are thousands of people crowding the Lord’s services does not mean that there is positive volition.

POD regarding a church: Large crowds are not indicative of positive volition to the Word of God.

Just because the church parking lot is full does not mean that there is positive volition toward the Word of God.

People attend church for a multitude of reasons.

²And large crowds gathered to Him, so He got into a boat and sat down,

- **So - ὥστε – HOSTE** – “Therefore” – “*For this reason He got into a boat. . .*”
- The Lord was forced to get into a boat because the crowds were so great.
- He was prevented from teaching so He distanced Himself.

. . . and the whole crowd was standing on the beach. ³And He spoke many things to them in **parables**,

- **Parables – παραβολή – PARABOLE**
 - **παρά – PARA** – “From, with, or beside”
 - **βάλλω – BALLO** – “To scatter, to cast, or throw”
 - **Concept:** To throw or cast beside something or alongside something
 - **Definition of parable:** a form of teaching in which something from the known world [physical world] is used to illustrate something about the spiritual world or teach some spiritual truth.

Matthew 13:3-9 And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, “Behold, the sower went out to sow; ⁴and as he sowed, some seeds fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out. ⁸And others fell on the good soil and yielded a crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty. ⁹He who has ears, let him hear.”

- There are multitudes of people.
- He’s teaching them about sowing seed.
- Everyone is wondering what He is talking about unless they have “ears to hear.”

The disciples notice that He has changed His teaching style.

¹⁰And the disciples came and said to Him, “Why do You speak to them in parables?” ¹¹Jesus answered them, “To you it has been granted to know the **mysteries** of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted.

- **Mysteries – μυστήριον – MUSTERION** – “Mystery or secret”

- Reference to truth that had not been revealed in the Old Testament. He is no longer communicating about the Davidic Kingdom that He would rule – He is communicating about a Spiritual Kingdom composed of those who believe in Him.
 - Those who have rejected Him are not going to have anything revealed to them beyond what's contained in the Hebrew Scriptures.
 - However, those who have believed in Him will have things revealed to them that are not revealed in the Old Testament.
- It has been granted from some to know because they believed in Him!
- When they did believe, they were born again; spiritually regenerated. They were given “ears to hear and eyes to perceive” the spiritual truth taught by way of parables.

¹² “For whoever has, to him *more* shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him.

He is referring to Himself and the truth – the mysteries of the kingdom.

¹² “For whoever has [faith in the Son and the truth], to him *more* [truth or spiritual secrets] shall be given [through parabolic teaching], and he will have an abundance;

WHY Christ taught in parables - -

Reason #1 - The Lord used parables to teach unrevealed truth or doctrine about the kingdom to His students [*believers*] and they are going to have abundance.

. . . but whoever does not have [faith in the Son and in the truth], even what he has [physical presence of Christ and what He is teaching] shall be taken away from him.

¹ **Corinthians 2:7-8** but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God predestined before the ages to our glory; ⁸ *the wisdom* which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory;

- They did not understand it because it was not granted for them to know the secrets of the kingdom.
- It was not granted because they rejected Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God.

¹³ “Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.”

- Spiritual truth is reserved for those who have believed in Jesus Christ.

Remember that personal evangelism is a cooperative effort with God!

¹ **Corinthians 2:14** But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

Reason #2 - To prevent the secrets [*of the kingdom*] from being revealed to those who had rejected Him; those with negative volition are going to remain in the dark.

Matthew 13:14-18 “In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, ‘YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND; YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE; ¹⁵ FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL, WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES, OTHERWISE THEY WOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES, HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN, AND I WOULD HEAL THEM.’”

Reason #3 - To fulfill biblical prophecy. **Matt. 13:14** “In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled. . .

¹⁶“But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. ¹⁷For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see *it*, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear *it*.”

Now the Lord interprets the parable of the sower for His disciples -

¹⁸“Hear then the parable of the sower.

Prior to getting into verse 19 and the Lord’s interpretation of the parable of the sower, let’s take a look at the parable that He taught to the multitudes . . .

Matt 13:3-4 And He spoke many things to them [great crowds] in parables, saying, “Behold, the sower

- **The sower** ὁ σπείρων - a farmer
- **went out to sow** - σπείρω – **SPEIRO** – “to scatter seed”

⁴and as he sowed, some *seeds* fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up.

- He is referring to sowing seed or planting [from the known world].

Definition of Parable: A parable is a form of teaching in which something from the known world is used to illustrate something about the spiritual world or teach some spiritual truth.

Reasons for Christ teaching in parables:

1. To teach unrevealed doctrine about the kingdom to His students (believers)
2. To prevent the secrets from being revealed to those who had rejected Him
3. To fulfill biblical prophecy

When He’s teaching, those who have rejected Him think He’s talking about sowing literal seed – the spiritual truth is not revealed to them.

“Behold, the sower went out to sow; ⁴and as he sowed, some *seeds* fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up.”

CATEGORY I: Seed scattered beside the road is devoured. Lack of faith in the message! No life!

Matt 13:19 “When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil *one* comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.”

- **Seed:** the kingdom message; God’s Word Gospel Message!
- **Sower:** Lord Jesus Christ
- **Place of sowing:** heart of the hearer
- In this case the message is sown in the heart - proclaimed to an individual - but the message is not accepted.
- They hear it, but reject it.

If you scatter seed beside a road, it is not going to grow - the ground will reject it!

- That message will be devoured by our adversary the devil.

He is going to take it away, just like the birds.

- It will be as though the seed was never there in the first place.

CATEGORY II: Seed sprouts and life shoots up - - the seed is received in faith.

Matt 13:5 “Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

The Lord’s interpretation:

²⁰ “The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; [*faith in the message which results in life*] ²¹ yet he has no *firm* root in himself, but is *only* temporary [*he does not continue on with the message*], and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away.”

Category II refers to someone who receives the message in faith which results in life, but they do not continue on with the message so when testing arises they fall away.

CATEGORY III:

Matt 13:7 “Others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out.”

The Lord’s interpretation:

²² “And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns [*details of life*], this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.”

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.