

***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.

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The Parable of the Dragnet and the Parable of the Master of the House

**Matthew 13:47** “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a **dragnet** cast into the sea, and gathering *fish* of every kind;

➤ **Dragnet** – σαγήνη – **SAGENE** - Thrown from the shore and then hauled in

<sup>48</sup> and when it was filled, they drew it up on the beach; and they sat down and gathered the good *fish* into containers, but the bad they threw away.

- > There is a separation that is going to occur.
- > Good fish are going to be placed in containers to keep.
- > Bad fish are going to be discarded.

<sup>49</sup> “So it will be at the end of the age;

- > “The end of the age” is a reference to the end of the 70 heptads – the end of the Jewish Age.
- > End of the Tribulation

... the angels will come forth and take out the wicked from among the righteous,

<sup>50</sup> and will throw them into the furnace of fire [*judgment*]; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>51</sup> Have you understood all these things?” They said to Him, “Yes.”

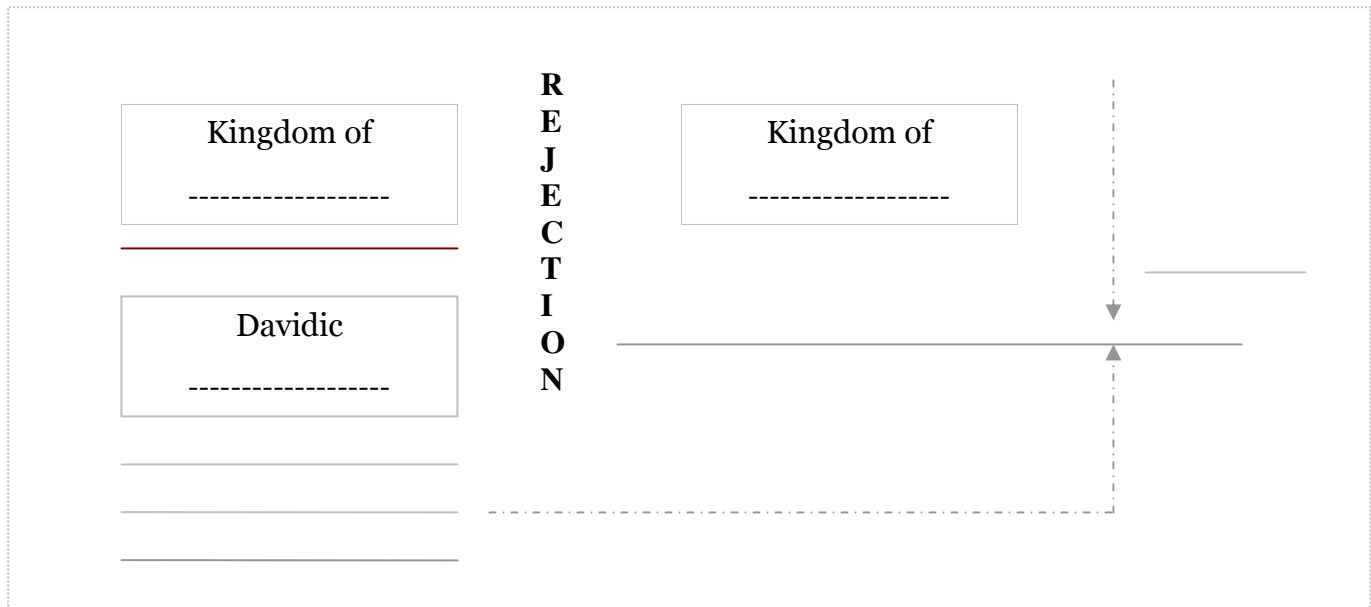
**The Parable of the Master of the House**

<sup>52</sup> And Jesus said to them, “Therefore every **scribe** . . .

➤ **Scribe** γραμματεὺς – **GRAMMATEOS** – An expert in the Law; an Old Testament Scholar

... who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven. . .

- One who has become a student of the kingdom of heaven is learning truth that has not been previously revealed in the Old Testament.
- This is an individual who knows the Law [*old revelation*] and has become a student of new revelation.
- The Old Testament revealed the Davidic Kingdom [*a kingdom of heaven*]; however, it did not reveal the new order of the spiritual kingdom that would function from Messiah’s rejection until He establishes the Millennial Kingdom at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent.



... is like a head of a household,

➤ **Master of the House**

... who brings out of his treasure things new and old.”

- This spiritual kingdom will have some things in common with the one that is revealed in the Old Testament but not everything.
- To understand the form of the kingdom one has to understand the old form (Davidic Kingdom postponed) and the new spiritual form from what Jesus Christ is teaching through the parables and will reveal through the disciples later on in time.
- The disciples and those after them are analogous to οἰκοδεσπότης - - “**Masters of the House.**”

<sup>53</sup> When Jesus had finished these parables, He departed from there. <sup>54</sup> He came to His hometown and *began* teaching them in their synagogue,

There are a few things that happen before He travels to Nazareth for a 2<sup>nd</sup> time – even though He’s exhausted. . . the humanity of Christ that is - -

*Review the day -*

1. Healed the demon possessed man in Capernaum
2. He refuted the verbal attack of the religious leaders.
  - > They said He was demon possessed
  - > Cast out demons by the ruler of demons
3. He pronounced judgment upon them in light of rejecting Him.
4. He had to deal with a family interruption from Mary and his four half brothers who did not believe in Him.
  - > They thought He was out of His mind.
  - > They thought He was too zealous.
5. Moved down to the shoreline at the Sea of Galilee to teach

- > Crowds were so great that He was forced into a boat.
- > He began to teach in parables from the boat.
- > The crowds were so great that He was unable to eat.

He has had an extremely arduous day.

*As a weary Servant He needed to rest.*

**POD: Sometimes all work must cease for the weary servant to acquire needed rest.**

- Rest is needed to press on doing effectively what God wants us to do.
  - To be an effective leader you need rest.
  - To be effective soldiers, your men need rest.
  - To be an effective parent, you need rest.
- From time to time, it's the will of God to take a break from our labors.

**POD: Vacation is in accordance with the will of God.**

Why is it that we fail to cease all work and get the rest we need?

1 - We get caught up in the details of life.

2 – We overvalue our importance.

The world will never stop turning because we cease work!

- Subtle form of arrogance
- Lack of trust in God

God's plan will be accomplished with or without you.

What you need to do is cooperate with God to accomplish His plan.

Do you know what's going to happen if you don't cease working and acquire needed rest?

- The Lord will ensure you take a break – He will induce bed rest.

**Matthew 13:53** When Jesus had finished these parables, He departed from there.

He didn't go to Nazareth as it says in verse 54 – He went to take a break and acquire some needed rest.

**Mark 4:33-37** With many such parables He was speaking the word to them, so far as they were able to hear it;

*Remember, the parables prevented those who rejected Him from hearing the truth and not everyone had positive volition in the crowd.*

<sup>34</sup> and He did not speak to them without a parable; but He was explaining everything privately to His own disciples. <sup>35</sup> On that day, when evening came, He said to them, "Let us go over to the other side." <sup>36</sup> Leaving the crowd, they took Him along with them in the boat, just as He was; and other boats were with Him.



- When the Lord was teaching there were people on the shore.
- Those listening were wading in the water and in other boats.

“ . . . they took Him along with them in the boat, just as He was.”

- “Just as He was” equates to the fact that they took no provisions with them.
- They were making a break for it.
- Those who were in other boats were following Him.

<sup>37</sup> And there arose a fierce gale of wind, and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling up.

The disciples were frantically bailing water out of the boat.

The boat just keeps filling up as the waves break over the sides.

“And there arose a fierce gale of wind” - γίνεται λαίλαψ μεγάλη ανέμου

- γίνομαι – GINOMAI – “To become”
- λαίλαψ – LAILAPS – “Hurricane”
- μέγας – MEGAS – “large or great”
- άνεμος - ANEMOS – “wind”

A great hurricane of wind became.

- Sea of Galilee is 700ft below sea level.
- Cold wind blows down from Mt. Hermon while the warm air rises off the Sea of Galilee.

**Luke 8:23** states “. . . a fierce gale of wind descended on the lake, and they *began* to be swamped and to be in danger.”

- Swamped – συμπληρώω – SUMPLEROO - “Being full - swamped”
- To be in danger – κινδυνεύω – “Being at great risk”

*From their perspective - their lives were at stake.*

While panic is setting in, the Lord is getting His needed rest.

**Mark 4:38** Jesus Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion;

*The storm has a twofold purpose - -*

**1<sup>st</sup> - - To facilitate the Lord's rest.**

- They have boats following them.
- People running along the shoreline to their next destination
- The storm provides a screen from those on the shore and prevents those in boats from pursuing them.
- He needs rest.

*The only way He's going to get rest is to go where no one else will go unless they have enough faith.*

**POD: Following the Lord requires faith in Him and His infallible Word above and beyond present realities.**

**PRESENT REALITY -**

- **The disciples are facing a great hurricane of wind.**
- **Their boat is taking on water faster than they can bail.**
- **Matthew's probably feeding the fish.**
- **And the Lord appears to be doing nothing other than sleeping.**

You may think the Lord is sleeping during the storms of life but He has everything in control.

**He wants you to trust in Him and His Word.**

**He is going to see you through the storm!**

**2<sup>nd</sup> - - Purpose of the Storm is the purpose of all storms that the Lord allows us to face**

- **To test our faith**
- **The storm is the means by which the disciples' faith in Him as a Person is being tested.**

**Mark 4:38-** Jesus Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke Him and said to Him,

**Teacher** - - they do not call Him Lord!

- **Teacher** - διδάσκαλος
- In Luke's account they call Him **instructor** - ἐπιστάτης

*The storm has caused them to lose focus on who He is.*

Think of the authority He has wielded that they have witnessed.

Water into fine wine - Authority over the natural world

Cleansing lepers - Authority over the sick

Raising the dead - Authority over death

Casting out demons - Authority over the angelic realm

*They have allowed the storm to distract them.*

“Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?”

Of course He cares - - and just because it appears as though He is doing nothing about it does not mean that He does not care.

This storm was designed to test their faith in Him.

This storm was designed to render them helpless - - so great as to exceed the abilities of Peter, James, and John as seasoned seaman.

The solution to storms that are beyond our abilities to resolve is trusting in our Savior.

*Everything the Lord does, He does in grace.*

<sup>39</sup> And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Hush, be still.” And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm.

- The wind and the waves ceased the moment He spoke.
- The entire sea became glassy.
- This is a miracle!
  - He wielded sovereign authority over the elements.

The Lord has full awareness of all that happens to you!

<sup>40</sup> And He said to them, “Why are you afraid? How is it that you have no faith?”

How is it that we have no faith in light of everything preserved for us in the infallible Word of God?

<sup>41</sup> They became very much afraid and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?”

- The disciples were still growing in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.
  - To grow in the knowledge of Him requires faith.
    - Faith in Him - - as a Person
    - Faith in His Word - - Bible doctrine
1. The storms of life are designed to test our faith.
  2. Without them our faith in Him as a Person would never mature.
  3. The storms of life are designed to foster greater dependence upon Him and His Word.
  4. That is why we must allow them to strengthen our faith.

Remember the Lord may be sleeping on the job from your perspective - - He is not!

The Lord is always in control!

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