

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

RLJ-1932

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PART 34: SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS

SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS

Spiritual blindness is a divine judgment that is ironically relatively unknown in Christian churches. Modern believers have focused solely on the message that God wants all people to come to the knowledge of the truth. **1 Timothy 2:1-6**

God's perfect will involves humanity coming to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and being born again. What happens when a nation turns away from God and rejects the Bible? God removes their capacity to understand the spiritual matters so that they cannot be saved. This corporate judgment affects adults as well as children. **Isaiah 6:8-11; 29:10**

With this knowledge as a backdrop, let's examine a couple of parables that Jesus introduced when He was in Galilee.

GOING TO THE BEACH

Matthew does not record the specific town when Jesus went to the beach of Lake Galilee. Gennesaret was the only city close to the lake and it is my assumption that this is where Jesus was located when He walked to the beach. **Matthew 13:1**

There was a large crowd that followed to hear the God-man speak, and in order for them to hear Him, He got into a boat and sat down and from here he started to speak to the crowd. **verse 2**

THE SOWER

In the first parable, Jesus spoke about a man that was sowing in a field. **verse 3**

1. Some of the seeds landed outside the field and the birds ate them. **verse 4**
2. Some of the seeds fell on stony places with little soil. They sprang to life, but with the shallow depth of soil and intense sun, the plants dried and died. **verses 5-6**
3. Some of the seeds fell among weeds and were choked out by the larger plants. **verse 7**
4. Some of the seeds fell on good soil. When the plants grew and matured, the harvest yielded three groups – 30%, 60%, and 100%. **verse 8**

Jesus ended the parable by saying that those with ears should listen and the implication is that they would learn from the parable. **verse 9**

PUZZLED RESPONSE

Jesus must have taken a break from teaching because the apostles wanted to know why He spoke in parables instead of just teaching plainly. **verse 10**



Jesus said that He intended for them to understand the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven; it just wasn't for the Jewish leadership and the general population. **verse 11**

This message was for everyone, but the judgment against the Jews, made it so that they were spiritually blind. That generation, when they are judged in the future, will never be able to say that they did not receive the message. In other words, "We would have changed, if we heard the message."

The Son of God explained a spiritual law that had been set forth by the Godhead prior to the foundation of the world. If a person rejects God's calling, he will lose what little he has and it will be given to others that repented and lived righteously. **verses 12-15**

The apostle John explains the spiritual law behind the blindness of the Jewish people. Jesus came to His own – the twelve tribes of Israel – but the leadership led the people astray and influenced them to reject the Messiah. The individuals who recognized Jesus as the Messiah were given power to be born again and become the sons of God. **John 1:6-13**

Jesus openly displayed His power for all to see. Once they saw the miracles and heard the divine teaching, each individual was allowed to come to Jesus and be saved. **Romans 10:8-13**

Salvation has always been an individual decision; it is not a mass conversion.

Jesus emphatically stated that prophets and righteous men of the past had longed to see what the people standing around Him were witnessing! **Matthew 13:17**

EXPLAINING THE PARABLE

Jesus spoke privately to the apostles and explained the meaning of the parable:

1. When people hear the word of the kingdom of God and fail to understand it, Satan will do everything he can to ensure they are lost. **verses 18-19**
2. The seed falling on the stony ground are the people that get initially excited, but when they encounter difficulties, they walk away from God. **verses 20-21**
3. The seed that fell among the thorns are people that are happy to be part of the Kingdom of God, but worldly activities eventually draw them away. **verse 22**
4. The seed in the good soil are the people that understand the message and bear fruit. Not all people will yield 100%; some will be happy to stay at the 60% level, and the masses will end up with a 30% yield. **verse 23**

TARES IN THE FIELD

Jesus said that the kingdom of heaven can be likened to a field. In the spring, the owner will seed it with wheat. Once he completes the seeding, he returns home and goes to bed. An evil person enters the field at night and sows tares. No one can tell there's been

a second seeding until the tares show themselves among the wheat blades poking up through the soil. The farmer's servant discovers the harm and cannot figure out what has taken place. The farmer realizes what is going on and tells the servant to leave everything as it is. The wheat will be separated from the tares at the harvest when the weeds will be gathered and burned. **verses 24-30**

THE INTERPRETATION

What did Jesus mean with the parable of the wheat and tares?

- ❖ Jesus said the earth is the field.
- ❖ God has sown good seed by creating humans in His image.
- ❖ Many choose to outright reject the Lord.
- ❖ Some walk away later on.
- ❖ Then there are others who are partially snared by the Devil, but their overall loyalty is to God.
- ❖ Not every Christian is going to be totally sold out for Jesus and their deeds reflect that truth.
- ❖ Good and evil people live together and everything will be sorted out at the end of the world.
- ❖ Some will go on to life eternal in heaven, but the majority will be cast into the Lake of Fire, an event the Bible calls the "second death."

WHEN IT WILL HAPPEN

The complete understanding of this parable was not revealed until some 60 years later when Jesus brought the apostle John to heaven and provided what we call "The Book of Revelation." This event will take place after the millennium kingdom and the last war.

Revelation 20:1-15

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?