

Matthew 13:3 – 23

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~ In this report, we reach the absolute spiritual summit of truth in our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God. Matthew brings us the key Gospel of the Bible as it opens the door from the Old Testament and bridges the gap to the New Testament. Chapter thirteen is the key chapter to Matthew. This chapter also brings us the key VERSE to the entire Bible. We are getting a better understanding of the Kingdom of Heaven in this section of Scripture – better than we will find in any other future passages – eschatological, historical or poetic. If you don't pick this key up at this time in your examination of Holy Writ then you will not be granted access to many of the spiritual countryside's that this so-called expedition passes through. As we have said, this begins the Mystery Parables and is the second of the three major discourses in Matthew.

The first discourse we considered on safari was the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus Personally laid out His manifesto for the law which will be strictly enforced in the Millennial Kingdom under His rule. Then, we saw Jesus furnish to us the dynamic for the ethic He commands us to live by. Jesus sent His disciples out and they were rejected. Then, we saw conflict with the Pharisees, and we saw Jesus hand down His judgment against the religious rulers. When they asked for a sign Jesus said there would be no sign given except that of Jonah – which represented resurrection. Jesus then gave a personal invitation as He said, "come unto Me all ye that labor and are heavy burdened and I will give you rest." That brings our movement through Matthew current in this report.

So, the question arises: what happens to the Kingdom of Heaven if Jesus did not establish it on earth at this time in which we are studying? The following Mystery Parables discourse answers that question as they set forth the conditions of the Kingdom of Heaven. Now, I am going to make several definite and dogmatic statements that form part of our overall premise: we have here seven parables - some say eight – I say seven, set before us to present the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven. We have said

before the Kingdom of Heaven is NOT synonymous with the church; nor the other way around. The Kingdom of Heaven is Christendom. The church is IN Christendom today but it is not Christendom. We've been over this before. No one could say with a straight face they will be sowing tares in the Kingdom of Heaven. That is something only an utterly blind fool would say. No, this lays out the form that the Kingdom has taken during the times of His rejection – our current state of being – today – right now as you read and I type....

3 And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;

~ I hope you won't miss verse three as most people do because it is all important. In fact, it is everything to the genuine child of God. A sower went forth to sow is the key to ALL of the other parables; and the parable at verse thirty-three is the key to this entire Book of the Bible. Jesus interprets this parable and the parable of the tares and wheat. You will find these principles carrying over into all of the other parables. If we interpret one parable and it contradicts any other passage of Scripture, then we can know very definitely that we have arrived at the wrong overall conclusion. Jesus says the birds represent agents of Satan; so, "birds" aren't going to be something good somewhere else in the Bible, for example. Consistency is the key to comprehension when following this safari to the Living Waters. The "sower" who went forth to sow is the Son of Man. What is the Lord Jesus going to do in this world today? I say He is a sower in the world sowing seed - and the seed is the Word of God. That answer is interpreted for us by Jesus Himself....

4 And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up:

5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:

6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:

8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.

~ It was a familiar sight in Palestine to see a sower sowing his fields. Most of the land over there didn't even require to be scratched with a hoe – most of the land was so fertile they just flung the seed out and it sprang up and grew to harvest. Of course, if you took a little time to bury it deep enough then the birds couldn't get to the seed. We are told very definitely in verse thirty-seven that the Sower is the Son of Man – the Lord Jesus Christ. That is found in the parable of the tares and the wheat. Sowing the seeds defines the work of Christ today in this world. Christ is the King that has laid aside His royal robe to get out in the field and do some farming; you know; some good old fashioned unglamorous servile labor! Even though we see Jesus out there sowing His seed – He is STILL the King! When anyone hears the Word of God and understands it not is when the seed is taken away; this should all be very clear to us from verse nineteen. The "field" is the world; we are told in verse thirty-eight – the field is NOT the church. We're talking about a world situation here in this study.

Let me attempt to illustrate our place in Christendom in the world with this picture: here are the churches in the world, and outside are multitudes that have not accepted Christ. The Word is given out to this person and that person. Some people accept Christ and some people reject Christ. Well, that's none of our business. Our business is to allow the Lord Jesus Christ to sow the seed of the Word of God through us. Some people you give the Word of God to are not going to accept it; others will! That's not our problem. I just fling out the seed in the so called safari. I don't know where these reports go – I have no idea who reads them and when and where and who doesn't. I do find out much later the places that it goes to, usually; that is, when it falls on good ground. I get beautiful letters and replies from people all over the world who have a real love for Christ and the Word of God, that's for sure. This example of Christ sowing seed is what my example of how to live my life and what to live for is taken from. Unfortunately, all I have is a little tiny corner lot to grow a very limited amount of wheat on. I

like to think my seed is going into other fields and growing there so that when I journey I might find friendly, prosperous neighbors – and it is working out exactly that way in my life today.

Let's be very specific and redundant: our job is to allow Christ to sow seed through us! The harvest is not the picture we have today, either. I don't want to argue or split hairs; but we saw the Lord say to 'pray the Lord would send the Lord of the harvest' and we said we would have more to say about that – and here it is: if you will travel back to chapter nine at verse thirty-six, Jesus was moved with compassion on the multitude there. They were as sheep having no Shepherd. That happened right before He sent the apostles out to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. That was the end of THAT age and the harvest had come for THAT age – not THIS age! The seed had been sown for some fifteen hundred years under the Mosaic System of Levitical Law and the harvest was now ready. A new age and a new dispensation is what Jesus is ushering in as He comes to earth as a man. The end of one age is the harvest and the beginning of the other is the sowing of the seed! We MUST emphasize that the end of the age means judgment! Both wheat and tares grow together until the time of the harvest which is the end of an age. We can thank God our business is NOT judgment – our business is sowing seed. Armageddon is considered a great time of harvest, by the way. It is also a time of treading the winepress for Him.

I rejoice at people that show up and tell me they had a Spiritual Safari – it's usually days ago, or longer. Some people have read all the way until now and have just now told me. That means the seed that has been sown has taken root. The seed I threw out there by allowing Christ to live through me has finally germinated and sprung up! By the time I hear about it, it's already bringing forth much fruit. It happens in everyone who has an honest hunger for the Word of God and a genuinely motivated desire to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. I think this makes the things we are talking about in this report very real.

The same seed falls on all four types of ground – and something happens to it. Notice that a full seventy-five percent of the seed does not grow – it dies – one way or another. There's nothing wrong with the seed - but there is a

huge problem with the soil! You can argue election to me all you want to but I see a WHOLE LOT of free will here – the condition of the soil is undeniably free will. That leaves a lot of “wayside hearers” and notice verse nineteen: “...when any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.” We’re told the birds are the evil ones; they’re like demons. It’s Satan himself who takes away that which was sown by the wayside. If this doesn’t make the hair on your neck stand up and prompt you to examine your own heart and life then something is radically wrong in your theology. When we get to Heaven we will likely see many people that we never expected were saved. I think it’s going to be quite a shock to some of us, frankly; but try not to act surprised - and don’t show a care - because we’ll all be shocked to see YOU there! ~

9 Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

10 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables?

11 He answered and said unto them, because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

12 For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.

13 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.

14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:

15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see

with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

17 For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

18 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.

19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

~ So, these are professing church members who have heard the Word of God, but it was not the hearing of faith. It's typically a little intellectual exercise they learned somewhere that meant nothing in their lives at all. It may have given them a temporary emotional high, but it didn't profoundly change their way of thinking and living. The church to these people is like joining the Moose Lodge or the Elks Club. It's a meaningless motion to meander away many wasted moons! They are usually more devoted to their gym membership than they are to the church. Christ is nothing in the world to them but a flowery, feel-good sideshow. They are all in a deep freeze! They used to pack the halls of the cults and ism's but the cults and ism's ARE the church today in the world. We are in VERY dark times – maybe the darkest the world has ever seen. The sun is only just going down, though – it's going to get pitch black on earth! ~

20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;

21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

~ Our Spiritual Safari travels over the rocky grounders. They are the exact opposite of the way-siders, by the way. Satan personally also took these peoples learning. We're talking about the flesh getting in the way of learning the Bible. These people aren't in deep freeze – they're burning up right now with emotions and tears. Usually, they are deeply disturbed by their feelings. These are the ones who are a flash in the pan of Christianity. Before you notice them they're gone! They usually make more noise than a rocket blasting off during a Bible meeting or on a comment board before they burn out, though. The problem is they never make it into orbit. Their zeal and energy reminds me of the shell of a burned out Roman candle on the fifth of July. There is nothing but a shell and it smells just like hell! They are just an emotional splurge – it's all a show and a spectator sport to them – nothing is lasting – all is temporary.

Next, we have those like thorns. I think you can use your imagination here by now. These people will gig you and rip your flesh wide open if they come in contact with you. These are the ones whose personal little garden's the world crowds out. They don't have much time to tend to it because they have to get the kids up and off to school and rush to work. Then, they scurry around all day doing things that they really don't enjoy much. They spend every minute chasing the almighty dollar – and maintaining their pride - but never put their trust in God; and they sure never give financially to the cause of Christ....

22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

~ We could also say that the devil got the way-siders; the flesh took care of the Rocky-grounders, but the world takes care of those who are thorny ground. The cares of the world are theirs and sometimes that care is their poverty! Sometimes, it's the deceitfulness of riches that they hoard – never learning that those riches were given to them for their hurt! What a tragedy. One group in abject poverty is on one side of the social spectrum. At the other extreme they prosper beyond imagination. These are the two groups that are the most difficult to reach with the Word of God. Most of them will not come near a church today. Many, many people allow their

world to crowd out the Word of God in their lives – in many different ways. We're not just talking about different types of believers here – some are not believers at all! This encompasses the entire range of all earthly people. Some have heard the Word and profess to have received it. I am absolutely sure I have all three types in my reading audience today....

23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

~ Remember, the Ethiopian Eunuch in the Book of Acts was reading Isaiah and he couldn't understand it; but he wanted to understand it, so God planted Philip as a hitchhiker on the highway that day. Philip gave that man a one-way ticket to Heaven. We're sowing seed and that's all we do in this so-called Spiritual Safari. Who has ears to hear let him hear? Well, don't we all have ears on the side of our heads? The disciples are getting ready to ask Jesus why He speaks to the people in parables. Someone has said that a parable is an earthly example with a Heavenly meaning – and that's good – but a parable is always put down to measure us. These parables are given to measure Heavenly truths. Jesus is going to tell us the mysteries are given to us to know but to them – the lost - it is not given.

If a man wants to know the Word of God he can know it. If you want to know the truth you can know the truth. Whosoever will may come; but when you shut your so-called broad-minded eyes and ears to it – you won't hear it – not a peep of meaningful spiritual truth will waft into your sensory awareness. Not only do you not hear it, but you also wouldn't understand one word if you did hear it audibly. It would just be so much noise. We must have an inner desire – an eye and an ear of the heart – that desires to hear the Word of God in truth and spiritual discernment. Whosoever hath – to him it shall be given; and he shall have more abundantly. If you desire to know a little He will show you a whole lot. If you don't want to know it then even what you have will be taken away from you. God will see to it that we don't get any. That's terrifying – at least, to me it is! Not one sparrow falls that God didn't allow it. Not one ever ate a seed that He didn't also allow. God will shut the door on those who don't want to hear Him. In Romans, Paul says God “....gave them up.” This is why Jesus now speaks to them in

parables - because it's just too much for them at this time. That ought to scare the living hell out of every single one of us, friends – but I doubt it does ~

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