

Sermon – You Need the Old and the New – Parable of the Householder

Preached at Cloverdale 2/11/2024

Matthew 13:52

⁵² Then He said to them, “Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure *things* new and old.”

Background: This is the concluding parable in a series known as the "Parables of the Kingdom." Over the past three Sundays we have been studying how Jesus uses various parables to convey aspects of the Kingdom of Heaven. The parables help us to understand the mysteries of the Kingdom and how it operates today and how it will look in the future.

Let's see what Jesus may be teaching us in this short parable.

Jesus explains the role of teachers (scribes) through this parable. Every teacher who is a teacher in the Kingdom is like the homeowner who maintains both old and new treasures and presents them to others.

Scribes were highly educated individuals who were skilled in reading, writing, and interpreting religious texts. They were also scholars, teachers, and legal experts.

To be instructed unto the Kingdom of Heaven would be to not only understand the Old Testament scriptures and prophesy, but to also understand the mysteries of the Kingdom through the parables that Jesus had been using to further their understanding.

They would have been aware of the end time prophesy of a restored Kingdom on earth, but many did not understand the process or proper application today while we wait for the return of the King.

What is the old and the new?

David Guzik states old and new represents what you knew before and what you just learned. Another commentary compared it to the old and new testaments. I like the perspective of Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown:

- A Christian teacher who is taught in the mysteries of the Gospel which they must teach to others.
- This treasure or store includes old truths in ever new forms, aspects, applications, and with ever new illustrations.

Jesus as our master teacher, certainly is using the parables which is a new application and different form of teaching to explain and enhance the old. The truth of the scriptures has not changed. What was true under the old is better explained under the new. There is a new application and understanding for how we are to live today but with the same expectation and hope first given under the old.

What is the application for us today? How can we use this in light of what Jesus is teaching?

My own teaching has seen a number of transitions from my original understanding and approach to now.

- I had a foundational understanding of the scriptures and the Gospel for salvation.
- As I started to learn more and gain a deeper understanding of the scriptures, my approach changed.
- The new included using real life examples and case studies which could be applied to the word. My own parables, giving greater insight and proper application of the Word.
- As new aspects and understanding is gained; this treasure of knowledge can be combined with prior truths and experience and be a treasure for others to be saved. John 17:17 – Thy word is truth.
- Revelation through the Holy Spirit is the key to this greater understanding. This is important.

Today, there are new ways of deception based upon the age-old schemes of the devil. What was wrong yesterday under the old, is still wrong today. Proper application of the truth is critical. The new knowledge doesn't negate the value of the old or previous truths learned.

Here is the challenge for churches and believers today. Some are applying the new without referring back to the old and watering down the truth of the Gospel. But God has not changed. So, there is a significant risk of misapplication of the word.

The other challenge is some churches and believers refuse to accept the new understanding. They cling to the old traditions and the old application and miss that God is doing a new thing. Here again, they miss the Kingdom in how to properly apply the word for the glory of God. It no longer becomes about the Kingdom, but about what they want to hold onto. But the Kingdom will not stay like this and a change is coming.

The "old" may represent the traditional teachings and prophecies found in the Old Testament, while the "new" could signify the fresh revelations and insights brought by Jesus and the establishment of the Kingdom of Heaven. Kingdom of Heaven builds upon and fulfills the promises and prophecies of the past.

“Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure *things* new and old.”

Summary:

- If you are only concerned with the old things, you may not be properly instructed or following the purpose and process of the Kingdom of Heaven.
- If you are only concerned with the new, you may miss the foundation of truth and may not be properly instructed concerning the Kingdom of Heaven.
- Can't say that God is only judgement and not sit with sinners, like a modern day Pharisee.
- Can't say that God is only love and miss the fact that God will judge sin.
- Understanding the old, increased my faith and helped me to better understand the new.