

HEARING IN THE KINGDOM

MATTHEW 13:1-23

We are in a series of messages looking at what Jesus has to say about this topic called the Kingdom of God - Jesus begins His ministry with this announcement Mark 1:15 - *The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the Gospel.*

The basis of the idea of the Kingdom is that contains 3 basic realities; **A King, a Domain and an Effect.**

Now from this point we are deliberately looking at the words of Jesus beginning in Matthew's account of key passages that Jesus talks about the Kingdom. Not exhaustively but hitting some of the key places.

- Beginning with the Matthew 5 - looking at the beatitudes - what we noticed was that these were not prescriptive of a life that is blessed but that in the Kingdom the unqualified are qualified and included!
- Next we looked at Matthew 6 specifically verses 10 and 33 at what the Focus of the Kingdom is all about. That clear focus in the Kingdom must begin and remain focused on the Action of God and that my Reaction is to repent - both in prayer and lifestyle - praying '***Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven...and to Seek first the Kingdom and His righteousness...***'
- 2 Weeks ago we looked entrance into the Kingdom - specifically that it comes through - Solus Christus - **In Christ Alone!**
- **Last week we looked at Greatness in the Kingdom - Matt 18:1-6 - You want greatness Descend to the Lowest!**

This week I want to move back in the book of Matthew to Chapter 13 at what some have called the Sermon by the Sea

- Likely spring of the year as **Jesus tells 7 well known parables** all of the related to the Kingdom of God - Jesus begins with what most of us know as the Parable of the Sower

Matthew 13: 1-23 - Read

Ben!

Are you listening?

This is what we are doing.....and what has been decided....OK?

Now I am sure I am the only person in the room who has ever had a conversation like this..... Beloved I have had full conversations - **that I actually for real DO NOT Remember...**

I don't say that with anything but regret for the times I have let friends and family down...what I have heard.....but not listened.

Now Interestingly I have had similar kinds of conversations with some of my kids at times....you know moments that I have passionately made a point and they have NO MEMORY of me even speaking.....

- **Reality - More to listening than hearing words.....**
- **Hearing is about more than having functional ears attached to you head!**

And the secret is simply this Christ in you!
Yes, Christ in you bringing with Him the hope of all the glorious things to come.
Col 1:27b JB Phillips

HEARING IN THE KINGDOM

MATTHEW 13:1-23

Its about UNDERSTANDING.....attaching the correct meaning to the words being spoken.....

Beloved I want to you talk to you about what I would say is one of the if not THE most important topic of the Kingdom of God - possibly one of the most overlooked and or forgotten!

- **Hearing in the Kingdom** - Jesus went to great lengths to communicate to his friends how vital it was to Salvation and to fruitfulness in the Kingdom!

I recall one of the first times I heard the **parable of the Sower** taught I was a young boy and I heard an application given that is often used when looking at this parable.....**understandable but misapplied.....**

- That the emphasis of what Jesus was speaking towards was the **condition of the heart.....**and so as this youth leader shared openly he was concerned that the concerns of life not choke out the Word of God in His life.....
- **and it became this very introspective invitation** - now not that a serious look at clarity in our life is not important - **its just missing the text in a Big way....left this huge question.....have I done enough to make my heart receptive.....**

Jesus gives this opening parable and then makes this incredible statement to His Friends...

- Verse 10-11 they ask – why do you talk like this and he responds....
- **To you has been granted to Know** = personal experiential knowledge - **This is your Destiny!**
- **Mysteries of the Kingdom** = this word is not about something that is incomprehensible but rather something that has been concealed and is now revealed.....!

Then Jesus quotes Isaiah 6:9!-...*hearing but they don't hear - seeing but they do not see....*

Matthew 13 : 18-19

- **Hear then the parable of the Sower**
- Jesus words - **The Seed is the Word of God....= Logos** = Utterance of God
- Same word used in John 1:1 – want you to see this with some clarity....Jesus is speaking to His friends who do NOT have the New Testament but who later would write under revelation....about the Logos.....the Word of God is Person! Not Scriptures.....
- **The Seed is the Word – The Seed is a Person – not the Scripture.....**
- **Now don't get derailed by that statement.....behind the words on that page is a Man.....a real man who wants to reveal Himself to you!**
- My point is that the Seed that is the Word....is the power that produces Salvation - Fruit - Faithfulness and His name is Jesus!

Now lets read on Verses 19-23 the words of Jesus who clearly tells us that this parable is NOT about the Soil of the heart - But the four kinds of soil are 4 ways of HEARING...

- Vs 19 ...anyone HEARS...the Logos.....does not understand = means synthesize put the facts together.....Evil one snatches it away...one kind of hearing....
- Vs 20 this is the man who HEARSaffliction and persecution.....steals the word - one kind of

And the secret is simply this Christ in you!
Yes, Christ in you bringing with Him the hope of all the glorious things to come.
Col 1:27b JB Phillips

HEARING IN THE KINGDOM

MATTHEW 13:1-23

hearing

- Vs 22 the man who HEARS...the Logos....and it is choked out...another kind of hearing
- Vs 23 the man who HEARS the Logos and puts it together....bears all kinds of fruit....is another kind of hearing....
- these four soils are about Hearing.....

This is a Parable about HEARING - the Word = the Divine Utterance of God....

- John 1:1 - Hebrews 1:1....He has spoken to us in His Son.....
- So Jesus clearly connects this reality that **Hearing and Understanding are the key to Salvation** and Fruitfulness the very ones to whom the mystery of the Kingdom has been promised....
- **To You the Mysteries of the Kingdom have been given....according to the words of Jesus - the hinge of that reality is the Effectiveness of our hearing!**

So little wonder that as Luke records this parable in Luke 8:15 Jesus says *'So take care how you listen..*

- It would seem according to the words of Jesus quoting Isaiah 6 that hearing him can both open eyes and dull eyes.....it can dim hearing.....**my point is that the Living Word of God is not a passive reality.....**
- Gen 1 when He spoke **created order responded.....**
- Gen 3 **when His Creation did not listen it** was not a passive result.....what they had was taken away....

Ignoring the Living Word of God in our life - is not passive.....This is a Spiritual law.... Heaven or Hell will be in operation.....it can multiply or take away....

The next sobering part of Jesus parable is this.....

- **Watch this.....Hearing is a Hinge pin in the Kingdom.....listen to the way Luke records the good hearer...**
Luke 8:15
But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.

I want you to notice something here -

- **Jesus makes this point - your growth and progression or lack of it are linked by Jesus not to the effectiveness of a preacher or teacher.....but to your hearing!**

Catch that?

Man that was some good preaching.....Jesus is clearly saying that is NOT this issue....

The Issue is Hearing.....the seed in Good soil....is about hearing.....with an honest and good

And the secret is simply this Christ in you!
Yes, Christ in you bringing with Him the hope of all the glorious things to come.
Col 1:27b JB Phillips

HEARING IN THE KINGDOM

MATTHEW 13:1-23

heart....asking God what are you saying..?

This issue of hearing is **NOT** about the influence of the attack of Satan, the pressure of opposition or the press of the Culture beloved.....

- He is able to KEEP you from stumbling.....
- This is a message to Jesus friends saying Hear with your spiritual ears....with an honest and good heart not a deceptive and evil heart....

Matt 13:12

Who ever has - more will be given - and whoever does not what he has will be taken....

Dude that sounds so harsh....?

- Jesus is describing the 1st three soils.....**who did NOT listen....**
- Universal law.....it will be taken from you....not out of punishment but out of your lack of receiving what was given
- **First Soil** - they think they HAVE the Word.....but the Word does not have them...and the devil snatches it away..
- **Second Soil** - Again they think they Have the Word - but live a superficial reality.....and the pressure of opposition reveals the Word does not have them.....and it is taken away
- **Third Soil** - They think they have the Word - but what has them are the cares of life. they did not hear the Word....and what they have is choked

What a sobering word....

- **My Destiny - Fruitfulness and Faithfulness in God will not be linked to how many Pod Cast I listen too**
- **How brilliant - excellent - Eloquent and dare I say Anointed a preached I listen to.....**

Jesus sobering confrontation is simple.....

- **Take Heed how you Hear!**
- It would appear again that Jesus is making a point about something much like Greatness in the Kingdom.....we measure by Success - strength.....meaning that it comes all to naturally to measure by the wrong measuring stick....

Beloved.....this kind of hearing does not come naturally.....

It is a gift of Faith to begin.....and then we have to engage our heart....to take heed and listen....

Matthew 6 - Luke 8 Jesus - Listening - hearing is a High Calling in the Kingdom!

1 - Salvation is connected to hearing - Luke 8:15, Romans 10

2 - Fruitfulness is connected to hearing Luke 8:15

3 - The Light of the Gospel is connected to hearing - Matthew 5:14-16, Luke 8:16-17

And the secret is simply this Christ in you!
Yes, Christ in you bringing with Him the hope of all the glorious things to come.
Col 1:27b JB Phillips

HEARING IN THE KINGDOM

MATTHEW 13:1-23

4 - The Glory of God is connected to it - Matthew 5:16

Take Heed how you hear - How do you hear?

1. Intentional Act of the Will to agree with God has said.....

- This lie that God stopped talking or that He doesn't talk to me.....bogus
 - Heb 1:1
- **God you have NEVER stopped talking**
Here I am...your servant is listening....

He may have something to say about something that has nothing to do with your current 'press'.

Here is what this looks like -

- **I begin with the assumption that God wants to say something to me....**
- He can speak in many many ways – Creation, scripture, people, circumstances and internally.

One word carried by the Spirit of God....power to transform

God what are you saying?

2. Intention to Meditate on the Scripture!

- Lets be clear - these words are God breathed.....and behind these pages is a Man who wants to reveal Himself....
- Meditation - Hebrew word = to Mutter
Read it - Write it - Sing it - Say it - Pray it

3. Intention to Trust the Holy Spirit!

James 1:21 - *In Meekness receive the implanted word....be teachable!*

- Able to Keep you!
- Able to Teach you!
- Able to Counsel you!

4. Intention to Engage you mind and heart in the Teaching of the word!

Oh God this is not about eloquence, excellence or anointing.....but

Psalm 19:10-11 - your Word

'More to be desire are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover by them is they servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.'

And the secret is simply this Christ in you!
Yes, Christ in you bringing with Him the hope of all the glorious things to come.
Col 1:27b JB Phillips