

Treasures Old and New - cont.

- Lesson 2 - the priority of the kingdom of heaven. Secular knowledge of this world has its place, but the priority is the spiritual truths of “the kingdom of heaven” (2 Timothy 3:15-17; James 1:18).
- Lesson 3 - a Christian is to be a scribe and disciple. There is a need today for Christians to be teachers and to be disciples (Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Tim. 2:2; Hebrews 5:12).
- Lesson 4 - the responsibility to bring forth new truths and learn new things in God’s word (2 Peter 1:5; 3:18) without neglecting the old truths (1 Corinthians 10:11; Romans 15:4).
- Lesson 5 - God’s word is a prized treasure. We should place a great value on the word of God as if it were a treasure (Psalm 19:7-11; Proverbs 3:13-18; Ephesians 3:8; Colossians 2:2-3).

Friend, do you appreciate your treasure of God’s word - the Bible? Do you take seriously your need for learning and teaching? Do you hear and do God’s word (James 1:22-25)?

- Chris Reeves -

- Thought of the Week -

I am told by God in his word that I am to honor others around me. I am to honor my parents, those in authority, other brethren, the elders, God and Jesus, etc. I will do my best this week to honor them all. In order to do this, I will have to appreciate them, value them, respect them, and do good to them. Yes, I will honor them when others in the world will not.

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THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

October 29, 2023



For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Have you understood all these things? They say unto him, Yes. And he said unto them, Therefore every scribe who has been made a disciple to the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is a householder, who brings forth out of his treasure things new and old.
- Matthew 13:51-52

The Parable of the Householder

The parable of the householder is the last of eight parables in Matthew 13: 1) the Sower, 2) the tares, 3) the mustard seed, 4) the leaven, 5) the hidden treasure, 6) the goodly pearl, 7) the drag-net, and 8) the householder.

The first and last parable on this occasion are important because they both focus on the word of God and man's reaction to it. The parable of the sower focuses on man's initial reaction to the word of God and the parable of householder focuses on the resultant consequence of understanding the word of God.

A Study of Matthew 13:51-52

Jesus begins the parable of the householder with a question to his dis-

ciples: "Have you understood all these things?" That is, have you understood the meaning of the parables that I have just spoken to you? His disciples answered, "Yes".

Note the word that Jesus uses next. He uses the word "therefore..." which ties together these thoughts. When the disciples "understood all these things" that were spoken in the parables (13:13-15,19,23), then they were a scribe and a disciple of the kingdom who was like a householder.

In the parable of the householder, Jesus is going to teach the lesson that there are blessings and responsibilities that come with understanding truth.

First Jesus speaks of "a scribe". A Jewish scribe was not just someone who wrote (copied) the law, but also someone who taught the law to others. Many, if not most scribes, in Jesus' day were opposed to him (Matthew 2:4; 5:20; 7:29; 9:3; 12:38). But, some scribes like Ezra in the Old Testament, were different (Ezra 7:6,10; Nehemiah 8:1-8). They were truly interested in what Jesus taught. It was one such scribe that Jesus said was "not far from the kingdom" (Mark 12:28-34).

Second, Jesus speaks of "a householder". This is a person who stores goods in

his house and then brings them out for sale. Sometimes he brings out "things old and new"... (Song of Solomon 7:13).

Jesus is saying that his teaching is built upon "old" things and "new" things. His teaching is the fulfillment of the time-honored truths of the Old Testament ("from the foundation of the world," 13:35), but it also contains new teachings as well.

The new teachings of Jesus are built upon the old (Matthew 1:1,23; 5:17; Luke 24:27,32,44-46; Acts 8:35; 17:2-3; 18:28; 26:22-23; Romans 3:21-22; 1 Corinthians 9:8-10).

Lessons Learned

What are some lessons that Jesus is teaching in this parable?

- Lesson 1 - the importance of understanding God's word. Have you understood the word of God? This is an important question for all (Acts 8:30). God's word can be understood (Ephesians 3:4). And it is the teacher's duty to cause understanding (Nehemiah 8:8). Why read and study the Bible if there is no understanding? - continued