

Seeing Christ's Redemptive Work for Now
Sunday, September 5, 2021

IX. The next general theme within the Sermon on the Mount is:
The Mystery of The Kingdom.

1 Corinthians 4:1 (NLT)

1 So look at Apollos and me as mere servants of Christ who have been put in charge of explaining God's mysteries.

Ephesians 3:9 (NLT)

9 I was chosen to explain to everyone this mysterious plan that God, the Creator of all things, had kept secret from the beginning.

Colossians 1:26-27 (NLT)

26 This message was kept secret for centuries and generations past, but now it has been revealed to God's people. 27 For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory.

1 Timothy 3:16 (NLT)

16 Without question, this is the great mystery of our faith: Christ was revealed in a human body and vindicated by the Spirit. He was seen by angels and announced to the nations. He was believed in throughout the world and taken to heaven in glory.

A. This is such a broad subject and is amazing to delve into but for our purpose we are using this expression of mysteries as it relates to parables!

1. This word "mystery" means; something outside the range of unassisted natural comprehension.
2. Something made known only by divine revelation!

- B. This wording and way of thinking was well known to the ancient Greeks!
1. This was regularly practiced among "secret societies."
 2. Certain things were made known to you ONLY AFTER you became a part of the group!
 3. So it is with joining the Family of God! Paul said:

Romans 16:25-26 (NLT)

25 Now all glory to God, who is able to make you strong, just as my Good News says. This message about Jesus Christ has revealed his plan for you Gentiles, a plan kept secret from the beginning of time. 26 But now as the prophets foretold and as the eternal God has commanded, this message is made known to all Gentiles everywhere, so that they too might believe and obey him.

- X. Jesus taught the mysteries of His new way of life in the Kingdom through the object lessons of Parables!

Mark 4:33-34 (NLT)

33 Jesus used many similar stories and illustrations to teach the people as much as they could understand. 34 In fact, in his public ministry he never taught without using parables; but afterward, when he was alone with his disciples, he explained everything to them.

Matthew 13:10-11 (NLT)

10 His disciples came and asked him, "Why do you use parables when you talk to the people?" 11 He replied, "You are permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven, but others are not.

- A. You can see from beginning to end The Lord expressing the truths of His awesomeness and the awesomeness of His new Kingdom through the medium of Parables!

1. It is believed that the first parable in scripture was the meaning behind the actual story of Abraham and Isaac! (Genesis 22)
2. We know what happened there but notice how the writer of Hebrews described it.

Hebrews 11:17-19 (TPT)

17 Faith operated powerfully in Abraham for when he was put to the test he offered up Isaac. Even though he received God's promises of descendants, he was willing to offer up his only son! 18 For God had promised, "Through your son Isaac your lineage will carry on your name." 19 Abraham's faith made it logical to him that God could raise Isaac from the dead, and symbolically, that's exactly what happened.

- B. Then we see this amazing mystery of God's Kingdom wrapped up in the final explanations of Revelation!

Revelation 22:1-5 (TPT)

1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, flowing with water clear as crystal, continuously pouring out from the throne of God and of the Lamb. 2 The river was flowing in the middle of the street of the city, and on either side of the river was the Tree of Life, with its twelve kinds of ripe fruit according to each month of the year. The leaves of the Tree of Life are for the healing of the nations. 3 And every curse will be broken and no longer exist, for the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there in the city. His loving servants will serve him; 4 they will always see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 Night will be no more. They will never need the light of the sun or a lamp, because the Lord God will shine on them. And they will reign as kings forever and ever!

XI. In our study of The Sermon on the Mount, we have made several observations:

- A. First and foremost we have stood on the fact that Jesus Christ HAS BEEN GIVEN authority in heaven and on earth!

1. In other words He is the final example and authority for EVERYTHING in life!
 2. His character, integrity and actions while on earth are our example to follow!
 3. Or as we have put it, The Sermon on the Mount was Jesus inaugurating a new way to life in The Kingdom of God in the earth!
- B. Jesus said for us to “go baptize and teach folks my sayings to live by!”
1. In other words, go bury people to themselves, their desires, actions and responses to life.
 2. While they are “dying,” teach them a new way to live by following my example!
 3. Remember, your baptism is your funeral!

Romans 6:4

4 For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

Colossians 2:12

12 For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.

XII. This event, this burial and resurrection into God’s life, was spoken of by The Prophets throughout the Old Covenant.

Ezekiel 36:26

26 And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart.

- A. In the 6th century B.C., Ezekiel spoke this as did many other prophets.
 - 1. Christians believe that God fulfilled this promise through the person of Christ!
 - 2. Rather than relying on the “spoken words” of the Prophets, God became The Word in flesh so we could SEE The Word lived before us!
 - 3. This Sermon on the Mount we are looking at is literally the way the world changed when the Kingdom of God was beginning to replace the Kingdoms of this world!
- B. The Beatitudes were the beginning of this new way to live. A new life all together! Now!