

Series: The Kingdom of Jesus

Message: Descriptions of the Kingdom –Parables –pt. 5

The head of a household

Scripture: Matthew 13:51-52

Introduction: Jesus asked the disciples if they had understood these private parables about the Kingdom. They answered yes. Jesus then tells them another aspect of the Kingdom. He said it is like a head of a household who brings out of his treasure things new and old. In other words he is able to show the new and old together as one treasure.

Jesus had shared with them the foundational parable of the sower. The Kingdom spreads as the Word of God is shared and received with the right kind of heart to bring fruit. The growth of the Kingdom will be done in small ways of influence like the work of seeds and leaven. The enemy will try to hinder the growth of the Kingdom by planting among the real believers those who are false. A day of separation will come at the judgement but until then we must be aware of the influence of the tares. The Kingdom is Jesus. A relationship with Jesus is the free gift of God. Once a person receives Jesus the person comes to understand Jesus is the treasure worth the sacrifice of everything to know Him, to become like Him and to serve Him. Now that they have these basics Jesus tells them they need to begin to grow in the knowledge of Jesus from the Old Testament Scriptures.

They needed to be able to share the truth of the New Covenant He was bringing through His sacrifice and resurrection by showing people in the Scriptures the pictures of Jesus. The disciples probably did not understand this parable until after Jesus resurrection.

A scribe studied the law of God and counseled leaders and taught the principles of the Law to the people.

Ezra 7:6 – Example of Ezra

Matthew 7:29 – Jesus taught not like the scribes which was not a negative statement about scribes. They had no authority. They could only teach what was in front of them. Jesus could give the full meaning and intent of the Law of God because it was His Law.

Jesus says a scribe who knows the law and becomes a follower of Jesus is a picture of the Kingdom. In other words it should be normal in the Kingdom for believers to study the Scriptures and be able to share Jesus from both the Old Testament (Covenant) and the New Testament (Covenant).

The initial followers of Jesus understood the Scriptures to be only the Old Testament. There were no Gospels written until around 30 years after the Ascension of Jesus. Several of Paul's letters came a little earlier but the concept of New Testament Scriptures with the 27 books as we know it today were still being formed by God through the Apostles during the first century. The final books written by John were not written until approximately 90 A.D. The truths Jesus taught and gave to the Apostles were understood and being taught orally by believers. The only authority however, in the form of Scripture, was the Old Testament. They needed to be able to take out the old treasure and show the new treasure that was all throughout the old and now made clear in the new.

Could you share Jesus story if all you had was the Old Testament? If you studied it, you could! Often the Old Testament is ignored or feared but it is full of rich truths foretelling Jesus. Every detail of the life of God's people was a picture of the Christ who would fulfill all.

3 Examples of the Old & New being shared in the New Testament:

Luke 24:27 – Jesus starts His teaching with Moses and then the prophets to reveal Himself in the Old Testament Scriptures while on the road to Emmaus.

Acts 7 – Stephen begins with Abraham and tells the story of God's people until Solomon and then shares how Jesus fulfills the story.

The entire book of Hebrews is a masterpiece of showing Jesus as the fulfiller of the Old Testament Scriptures.

Today as we prepare to celebrate the Lord's Supper let's look briefly at the pictures of sacrifice in the book of Leviticus which declared Jesus each time the people made a sacrifice.

The book of Leviticus was the primary tool of the scribes to guide the people in the worship of God and in the obeying of God's law. The first few chapters reveal **5 sacrifices** the people were to make to God. The **first 3 were focused towards God and were called sweet savor sacrifices**. Paul uses this analogy of sweet savor sacrifice to describe the offering he received from the people of Philippi. They gave it to him but the sacrifice they made was unto the Lord. (Philippians 4:18) The sacrifices focusing the people towards God were the **Burnt offerings**, the **Grain offerings**, and the **Peace offerings**.

The other **2 offerings were non-sweet aroma offerings**. This was because the **focus of the offering was toward the person's sin and need**. These were the **Sin offering** and the **Guilt offerings**.

Let's take a quick look at each and how they were pictures of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Burnt Offering – Leviticus 1:3-5

A male animal without blemish was voluntarily given to be totally consumed. The one offering the sacrifice put his hand on the animal to represent himself in the substitute and then slayed the animal. The animal was then given to the priest to be completely consumed in the sacrifice. Jesus was the spotless male lamb offered voluntarily to be given completely to God.

This sacrifice symbolizes Jesus purity and complete and voluntary commitment of himself to the will of God to be our substitute.

The Grain offering – Leviticus 2:1-2

In the KJV it says meat. This word referred to the fruit of the grain. It is called the grain or bread or meal offering. The person brought completely fined grain with oil and frankincense. A was offered to God and the rest was given to the priests to eat. Jesus said He is the Bread of Life. The oil is a representation of the Holy Spirit who filled Jesus after His baptism. The frankincense is a spice used in burial representing His death. The offering is to God but it is also consumed by the priests of God. We as followers of Jesus are now called a royal priesthood. (1 Peter 2:9) As priests we represent God to people and bring people to God. The eating of the Bread symbolizes taking Jesus fully and completely into one's life, understanding that Jesus is the source of Life eternal.

The Peace offering – Leviticus 3:1-2

The peace offering involved the sacrifice of a pure animal by the one offering the sacrifice. The blood would be sprinkled by the priest upon the altar. The priest would eat the sacrificed animal. The purpose was to picture being reconciled to God. The one making sacrifice would be once again able to be at peace with God and to walk with God.

Jesus has brought us eternal peace with God through the sacrifice of His blood upon the cross. Jesus has reconciled us to God through His blood sacrifice on the cross. (Colossians 1:20)

These 3 focused the one making the sacrifice on God.

The Sin Offering-Leviticus 4:1-3

The sin offering focus was given for sin done in ignorance. Again the animal had to be a substitute for the person and the animal had to be without blemish. The person offering sacrifice had to admit the sin, admit the separation from God, identify with the

substitute and present the sacrifice to God. The blood was sprinkled towards the veil into the presence of God. The dead animal was taken outside the camp to be burned.

Jesus identified himself with us by becoming a man. He took on our sin upon the cross. His blood was sacrificed on Golgotha but the real sacrifice was in the Holy of Holies of God presence. His sacrifice caused God to tear the physical veil in the temple. Jesus was crucified outside the camp. (2 Cor. 5:21 / Hebrews 13:12) Jesus was our sin offering for the sin nature which we inherited by birth from Adam. This nature led to sin even before we knew it was sin. Jesus death covers these sins.

The Guilt or Trespass offering – Leviticus 5:5-6

The sin offering dealt with the root of sin, our sin nature. The guilt offering dealt with the fruit of that root. In other words the guilt offering covered the choice to sin. The person had to confess the sin. The sacrifice represented the removal of the guilt of the sin. The person would also make restitution for the sin after the sacrifice was made. The examples of these sins were sins that primarily hurt others and most of the time the motive was unintentional. When one violated directly the law the only hope was God's mercy.

There was no sacrifice. Jesus took away our guilt and shame by His sacrifice on the cross. He also removed **all** of the penalties our willful sins which the sacrificial system could never do.

We experience the meanings of the 5 sacrifices in the opposite way in which the people of Israel experienced them. They were looking forward to the Christ who would come as the ultimate sacrifice. We now look back at the One who came and who made the sacrifice for us.

We begin with confessing our willful sins seeking Jesus forgiveness. (Like the Guilt offering)

We recognize our condition as a sinner- the root is our sin nature and we need redemption that can only be found in Jesus. (Like the Sin offering)

We seek peace with God to be reconciled to Him. This is only possible through Jesus. (Like the peace offering)

We then desire to know more of Jesus who becomes our treasure. (Like the meal offering)

We commit ourselves fully to Jesus Christ, as a living sacrifice, because we have experienced His mercy and grace. (Like the burnt offering)

They had to make these 5 sacrifices over and over again. We only have to trust in the once and for all sacrifice of Jesus

Today as we take the bread and the cup which Jesus shared with the disciples we understand that Jesus took the Passover lamb ceremony and declared He was the ultimate Passover Lamb. By the sacrifice of His body and blood on the cross He made the new way to God available to every person. As we take of the Bread we remember His willing sacrifice on the cross of His body.

He had a body like ours yet without sin. He had no earthly Father so Jesus had no sin nature. He identified with us so he could represent us on the cross.

Jesus said the cup represented His blood that was shed on the cross as payment for our willful sins. As we drink it we remember His sacrifice. By taking the bread and cup we confess Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. We hold no unconfessed sin in our hearts. We have no barriers of hostility between us and others in the Body of Christ for which we have not sought forgiveness and reconciliation.

From this parable we should be encouraged to be prepared to share the full message of Jesus and His Kingdom from both the Old and the New Testaments. All 66 books are God's eternal Word to us. Most of the people who do not know Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior today across the earth will relate more to Abraham story than to the Apostles. It is essential that we be able to take people from Genesis to Revelation to show them Jesus.

As we enter into our time of commitment prepare to take the Lord's Supper.

- Trust in Jesus and seek His forgiveness and receive His gift of eternal life
- Confess any willful sin seeking Jesus forgiveness & cleansing
- Seek reconciliation with God and with others
- Commit your life to Jesus fully as a living sacrifice
- Commit to seeking first His Kingdom and Righteousness
- Commit to serving as a part of His Body here locally taking the message of the Gospel with us to the community and world