

## Lesson 24 – The Book of Romans

Jesus taught the multitude in parables. He later deciphered them to His disciples in detail as they asked Him for further understanding.

Why Parables?

Through the first **13 Chapters of Matthew**, Jesus was specifically using miracles to attract their attention. It was at that point that the Pharisees began to attribute his miracles to Satan. Jesus changed direction and from here forward taught His disciples in parables.

The word parable comes from two Greek words – which when put together mean “to throw alongside.” A parable takes a known truth and an unknown truth and throw them together for the hearer to be able to understand what He was saying.

Jesus when asked by the disciples, if He would further explain what these parables meant. This then would move them from what they already knew, to what new thing Jesus was trying to convey.

These new things that they were learning had not been revealed to them through the Old Testament.

How do we know that? **Matthew 13:35** says: *“I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter things kept secret from the foundations of the world.”*

Well, if they were hidden from the foundations of the world, they were hidden at this time

So, when Jesus began the teaching in **Matthew 13**, these were things that had never been revealed up until then.

The disciples asked Him – Why do you speak in parables?

He was speaking to them in parables in order to continue to reveal truths to them. (**Matt 13:11&12**). Jesus was making known to them the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven. These were things not revealed in the Old Testament, but now being made known to them. Here He was giving them instruction of His reign while on the earth.

Jesus spoke in parables to hide the truth from unbelievers. Secrets of the kingdom of heaven would be given to the disciples, but hidden from them who rejected Him. **Matt 13:11**. If you look at **verse 12**, you will note that the things that they previously had known would no longer be clear to them.

And finally, Jesus spoke in parables to fulfill the prophesy of Isaiah 6: 9&10

God told Isaiah that people would not comprehend his message. Jesus preached the message and many saw but did not perceive, they heard but did not understand. **Matt 13: 13-15**.

Why you ask is this important?

There was to become an entire age that would come between Israel's rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the time in which they would accept Him.

That age is known as the "Church Age."

Look with me at **Ephesians 3: 1-5** *"For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles, if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already) by which when you read, you may understand my knowledge inf the mystery of Christ) **verse 5** which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets, that Gentiles should be fellow heirs of the same body and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God..."*

Mystery – sacred secret - totally hidden in the Old Testament.

I would like to interject something at this point in this message...

Concerning the Word of God, His teachings, the Life of Jesus Christ, the Church and its responsibility to the world and to the Lord, the rapture and the tribulation coming, the millennium reign of the Lord Jesus, the position of the Church during that time and our responsibility as part of the body of Christ, the future of the entire world, the lack of wars and rumors of wars, the lion and the Lamb lying down together etc.

All of this is very – Ho Hum to some folks.

They have no interest in learning more about it, or how it plays a part in their lives today, or as some would say – so what Tom, what has that to do with what is happening in the world today?

Beloved, unless the Spirit of the Living God spurs an interest in your life, unless He captures your imagination concerning these things, there is nothing to be said by the teacher that can enhance the interest. If He has spurned an interest in you, take the time to thank Him for that. It had to come from Him.

That is what sowing seeds is all about. Some sow, some water, but it is the Lord who gathers in the crops. It is God who gains from the endeavor. It is God who must bring the increase.

I can only caution you who know the truth not to be dull in hearing, pursue Him for in the end, it will be worth it all.

OK, back to the lesson at hand.

Last time I mentioned the importance of seeing Israel, in the past present and future and how that plays such a significant role in our lives today. **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10 verse**

**11** says: “Now all these things happened to them (Israel) as examples, and they were written for our admonition upon whom the ends of the ages have come.”

Let me take us back to **Romans 11:11** as Paul gives us the outcome of what has happened to the Jews today.

*“I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not, but through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles”*

It is important to note now when Paul states in verse 12, *Now if their fall is riches for the world and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much **more their fullness!***

What is at stake here?

Then **verse 15** “For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but **life from the dead**”

Did you get that beloved? These folks that have been *cast away*, will be *accepted* again and when that happens it will be as *life from the dead*. Someone actually dead, who arises from that death and becomes alive.

Has this happened yet? Of course not. Will it happen – You can bank on it.

Now in the next verses, Paul points out a very important lesson. He mentions the “*first fruits*” – *the lump and the root and the branches.*”

All are important to understand what He is saying.

First fruits is mentioned in **Numbers 15:20** – God spoke to Moses and told him to tell the children of Israel that when they come into the land (Canaan) (we can equate this to our bring “born again”) that they were to make a “grain offering” like a loaf of bread and offer it to the Lord as their **first fruits**. And if a portion of the loaf was holy (set apart) the entire loaf was holy. It was sanctified (set apart) as it was offered to the Lord, and as Paul states that if a portion of the bread offering was holy, the entire loaf was holy. Got it?

The first fruits here mentioned is the covenant that God made with Abraham, and *all of the nations of the earth shall be blessed.*

Paul’s second illustration was that of a **tree**. If the root of the tree is holy, so are its branches. It is important then to note that the branches represent the Israelites, and the “wild olive” tree represent the Gentiles.

In both instances, the issue is the same. If what is being considered first contributes to the character to what follows after it or what relates to it.

You (Gentiles) are set apart (holy) but so are they (the Israelites)

We Gentiles were “grafted” into the holy tree (the Israelites) and because of this, both are holy.

Very simply then Paul admonishes the Gentiles not to boast about their acceptance to the branches (the Israelites), but remember that the root supported them and also supports you.

Now the issue of the “root” It is true that the root supports the tree and the branches. It is further true that without a good root system, the tree will die or fall over destroying both the branches that are natural and those who have been grafted in.

The root is the source of life for both the natural branches and the grafted in branches.

I tend to lean toward the root being the **covenant that God** made with Abraham which contained promises to both the Jew and the Gentile.

Abraham is our father, but also, He is the father of the Jewish nation Israel. Abraham is the father of all who believe.

I do not subscribe to those who say that the “root” is the church. It is not.

Believing Gentiles share in the blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant as Abraham’s spiritual children – Galatians 3: 8&9, BUT THEY DO NOT PERMANENTLY REPLACE ISRAEL AS BEING HEIRS OF GODS PROMISES.

Look at how clearly Paul puts it in verses **19** & following; *You will say then “branches were broken off that I might be grafted in, well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off and you stand by faith.”*

“Don’t be haughty then, but fear: -.Vs **20**

There is no room for arrogance here

**Verse 21** should read “since” not “if” – For since God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. So, no boasting – period.

Our riches at Israel’s expense. They through unbelief have been set aside – Not all- for God always has a remanent.

Question then becomes – Is this a permanent situation for the Nation of Israel? Are they forever lost and separated from God unless they give themselves to Christ as part of His Church?

Read then with me at **verse 25** – *For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this **mystery**, lest you should be wise in your own opinion – that **BLINDNESS IN PART (NOT ALL) HAS HAPPENED TO ISRAEL until – THE FULLNESS OF THE GENTILES HAVE COME INTO THE CHURCH.***

In other words, those who are Israelites have become blinded to the truth. They as a nation are not able to see the truth. Some will see it, but most will not see it.

How long has this been going on? Some 2,000 plus years, but soon and very soon it will be time to go get Israel as a people and a nation, but not until all those who were

predestinated to become part of the Church- that is to become “born again” blood bought believers in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross. Those who become joint heirs with the Lord Jesus Christ forevermore. Us.

After the fullness of the Gentiles have come in (verse 25), the partial hardening of Israel will be removed, and “all Israel will be saved.” That is delivered by the Messiah – “the deliverer” from the terrible tribulation.

Paul quotes from **Isaiah 27:9 and 59:20&21**. Not all Israel, some will not according to **Ezek: 20-34-38** These are the Jewish rebels at that time.

Then **Verse 27** – following this judgment, God will then remove godlessness and sins from the nation as He establishes His New Covenant with regenerate Israel-**Jeremiah 31: 33-34**

Now look at **verse 28** – *Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election, they are beloved for the sake of the fathers.*

Then we are raptured into His presence (the scene I so often quote) as our Heavenly Father begins the tribulation period on the earth.

In order for God to bring the gospel to the Gentiles, He had to deal with Israel corporately as “adversaries”, but in relation to ‘God’s election of Abraham and His covenants with him and the patriarchs, Israel is beloved. Because God chose Abraham, Isaac and Jacob according to **Romans 9 6-13**.

He loves the nation and will keep His promises. According to **Romans 11:15**, this must be a temporary situation, and because God chose Her, must be saved corporately.

And then **verse 29**- God cannot change His mind.

According to **verse 30** – We Gentiles have received mercy through Israel’s disobedience. Israel is now disobedient to God in order for the fullness of the Gentiles to come into the church. Israel will then again receive His mercy.

**Verse 32** – God concluded that He will mercy on all – Jews and Gentiles. All have sinned, Jew and Gentile. He is showing mercy now on the Gentiles, and will again at that future date, show mercy on Israel corporately.

Read the balance of the verses to determine His judgments and mercy and asks the question – who is to be His counselor? He: He does what He does the way He desires.

Selah,

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