Mat 141

Spiritual independence, stage two

Keep Cameron in prayer he is going to be embarking on a business venture and may be getting prepared to be blessed in that area.

James needs prayer he has some work related issues as well.

The parable of the sower that TLJC is teaching on is important because what it tells these new church leaders is that they had better be prepared for these exact types of people in their own ministries.

/From the time of the Garden right through the 7 year Tribulation period, there will be Unbels who hear the truth and reject it. Luke warm Bels who fall away after salvation and serious students of the word who will get distracted and peel off. But there will also be Bels who gain levels of spiritual growth.\

This will be the norm and standard in all their future churches and ministries.

As King Solomon taught there is nothing new under the sun!

Mat 13:10 And the disciples came and said to Him, “Why do You speak to them in parables?”

/[Mat 13:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/mat/13/11/s_942011) Jesus answered them, “To you it has been granted to know **the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven**, but to them it has not been granted.\

[Mat 13:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/mat/13/12/s_942012) “For whoever has, to him *more* shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him.

This principle touches back to what TLJC just taught in Matthew 13:8 about the Bels who grow up toward spiritual maturity.

[Mat 13:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/mat/13/13/s_942013) “Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

As I had covered a few lessons ago this is all introduction into mystery doctrine of the CA.

This new style of parables would be a great learning tool and way to conceal teaching principles from the legalistic Jews who had now made it apparent that they hated TLJC and not only rejected Him but were starting to plot ways to undermine and eventually attack Him.

Born again Bels are not to walk around completely oblivious to those who hate and attack them…we do not try to strike first and we offer forgiveness and grace when we can but we also must learn to protect and separate ourselves from these types of negative or hateful people.

Bels need to us common sense just do so with a spirit of love and compassion…but you were never designed to be a doormat Royal family.

/Mat 13:11 “*To you it has been granted to know mysteries of the kingdom”*

Jesus is addressing future leaders & apostles and letting them in on the beginning stage of learning mystery doctrine. Notice the word *mysteries* is in plural.\ REPEAT

(Historic context…and who is being addressed has great value, TECAHERS.)

This coincides with spiritual growth…mystery doctrine is something taught by prepared men and learned by serious students!

Because when we use the term mystery doctrine of the CA…this is a title that covers several doctrines under that one title.

These future church leaders will need clarity and understanding because just like the parable of the sower…many Bels will hear principles but not fully grasp them and will peel away as soon as they are distracted.

So now this style of teaching will hold great value and deeper meaning for the men who go on to positions of leadership after the resurrection & ascension of TLJC.

This is why having spiritual growth begins to have so much value for the average Bel.

Yes, there are stages…and many will fall away as I covered last lesson.

/Spiritual self-esteem speaks to a confidence the Bel finally develops in their relationship with God, the first big step!

Spiritual autonomy means an independence from cosmic viewpoint and the lack of desire for worldly connections. This second stage begins to really set a Bel apart from the average church going Bel.\

This second stage is powerful because it puts a Bel in a place where all their advice and knowledge is now being drawn from BD.

The first stage is where the Bel dabbles in BD as a means for counsel and guidance …they begin to use faith and grace out in their daily lives but still have connections to cosmic viewpoint and have doubts nagging at them deep within their soul. REPEAT

/This second stage is almost like an uncoupling from cosmic viewpoint and secular knowledge to the point that a strong level of spiritual independence has embedded itself into this Bels lifestyle. They begin to live as ambassadors for Christ and fully functioning in their priesthood with confidence.\

Their faith is not sporadic, it is solid and their orientation to a grace lifestyle is evident.

This means the fruit of the spirit is now coming forth at different times in their lives…no more guess work, it is now becoming really visible.

REPEAT This is how you recognize the second stage.

A crisis arises and it only knocks them off balance for a day…instead of two weeks.

Their emotions are under greater control and less chaos exists in their lives while pressure and problems develop all around them.

/Relationship with God outweighs relationship with people and cosmic agendas at this stage. This Bel is obviously one who holds strong to Bible Doctrine and when the storms of life pop up, they usually pull others together rather than add to the misery & confusion.\

Turn to Phil chapter 4 with me.

These are all signs of the Bel in stage two Spiritual Autonomy or spiritual independence.

Bible study is on a steady schedule in their life and almost never interrupted, it is a source of food that sustains this Bel. I look at BD as the medicine for a sick and deceitful heart we get from cosmic viewpoint.

Just like Prov 17:22 says laughter is like a medicine for the soul…Jesus told His followers in Mat 9:12 that HIS word was for those who were spiritually sick.

/Stage two Bel- Grace & truth are what they display in their lifestyle. They are usually quick to forgive, easy to talk too and offer Biblical principles no matter what problem or question you throw at them. During the crisis they are the ones who usually go to Bible Doctrine first and everyone else gains assurance because of them. \

ELABORATE

The Philippian church was extremely faithful to Paul in not only finances but always staying in the word.

They didn’t often get fooled by false teachers when Paul was not there or was not writing to them.

Let’s look at what the Apostle Paul teaches that actually points us too what the Bel who is growing into this stage looks like;

/Phil 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever is **true,** whatever is **honorable**, whatever is **right**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely**, whatever is of **good repute**, if there is any excellence and if anything **worthy of praise**, **dwell on these things**.\ ELABORATE

Paul is teaching that as the Bel grows into these stages, this is where the mind- set is at…not on the petty things…gossip and jealousy on what the world system is involved in.

It’s amazing that grown men and women are so involved in what the celebrities and sports stars are doing in the world, what lifestyle they are involved in.

If they are not Bels with BD leading their lives…. who cares!!!!!!!!!

Never listen to a celebrity for advice or any talking head on the media outlets unless they are Bels with solid doctrinal wisdom in their own lives.

The celebrity culture was designed to distract us and keep us worshipping that lifestyle….. that glamour and false happiness they all portray…it is a form of idol worship.

Satan has had great success with celebrity worship since the 1960’s…

It is a really insidious avenue to attract young people. ANYWAY….

[Phil 4:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/phl/4/9/s_1107009) The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, *practice these things*, and the God of peace will be with you. PRACTICE

BE IMATATORS….

Paul begins to point out God's provisions….the Bel in stage two growth is well aware of God’s powerful provisions every day in their lives.

[Phil 4:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/phl/4/10/s_1107010) But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned *before,* but you lacked opportunity.

[/Phl 4:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/phl/4/11/s_1107011) Not that I speak from want, for **I have learned to be content** in whatever circumstances I am.

Contentment is spiritual happiness, not emotional waves and highs, that is cosmic happiness. NOTICE -learned!\

The Greek elongated verb here is

MAN-THON-OH meaning a habitual gathering of knowledge…or a practice of gaining knowledge it is written in the present active tense meaning it is continually!

REPEAT

**/**[Phl 4:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/phl/4/12/s_1107012) **I know how** to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; **in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret** of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.

This means a Bel is already in stage two growth and is now reaching upward. They have been trained to be in any circumstance (content). Which means ready for the next level.\

I KNOW…. because I have habitually been learning and growing and training.

Again, the present tense speaks to continued.

Just because you are born again and saved and have a few years of doctrine under your belt or that you read a few scriptures every Sunday at your local church means that you are practicing and learning and growing.

This is a much deeper lifestyle choice Royal Family.

Many large churches and denominations feed their congregation once or twice a week but its all fluff and a handful of scriptures…no substance for those Bels to take with them to study and grow.

Now the third level is SM…this may have an even higher level that a JOB reached which some teach is a super-grace level of SM. Paul is now touching into real maturity here;

**/**[Phl 4:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/phl/4/13/s_1107013) **I can do all things** through Him who strengthens me.

When this becomes a reality in a Bels life they are only steps away from Spiritual Maturity.\

[Phl 4:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/phl/4/14/s_1107014) Nevertheless, you have done well to share *with me* in my affliction.

The distraction in life are real…like relationships, attacks, seeking wealth and power.

Go to 1Tim chapter 6.

/Heb 13:5 ***Make sure that* your character is free from the love of money**, being **content with what you have**; for He Himself has said, “I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,”\

When anything begins to become a goal in your life check your motivation along the way…I’m serious… these things creep up on us and before we know it we are pursuing something or someone for the wrong reasons….Satan knows how to play on human desires and emotions…he is an expert in this area.

REPEAT

(Screw Tape letters by CS LEWIS!)

/1Tim 6:6 But **godliness** (*eusebeia*) actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by **contentment**.

This speaks to a reverence and relationship with God that is far above the average person. This means a Bel walking by means of the Spirit habitually.\ IT IS NOT SINLESS!!!!!

This speaks to a duty toward your calling in the plan of God. This means you are extremely familiar with the new nature and reflect TLJC more often then you reflect the OSN in your daily decisions and lifestyle.

This is a mature Bel because look what has to accompany this for it have a great impact….contentment.

[1Ti 6:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/1ti/6/7/s_1125007) For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either.

[1Ti 6:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/1ti/6/8/s_1125008) If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.

/[1Ti 6:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/1ti/6/9/s_1125009) But those **who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare** and **many foolish and harmful desires** which plunge men into ruin and destruction.\

This speaks to not only seeking wealth which is fine in itself if your motivation isn’t all about becoming wealthy rather than just to be successful at your calling, but many foolish and harmful desires get us into trouble…lust for power or authority…chasing relationships and new things that we know have no eternal value. REPEAT ELABORATE

/[1Ti 6:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/1ti/6/10/s_1125010) For **the love of money** (*philargyria*)**is a root of all sorts of evil**, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.\

That Greek term…PHIL-LOG-OH-REE-AH is from the root word phileteo’ meaning a personal love but how it is used in this term is a form of greed…covetousness.

REPEAT ELABORATE

Money is not the problem…lust is !!!

[1Ti 6:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/1ti/6/11/s_1125011) But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance *and* gentleness.

[1Ti 6:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/1ti/6/12/s_1125012) Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

[1Ti 6:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/1ti/6/13/s_1125013) I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate,

In other words under the most extreme pressure TLJC spoke BD…HE never wavered under the pressure of the circumstances and even facing certain death HE chose the Father’s plan over everything else.

/Lust for anything is a root of evil. Evil speaks to a lifestyle and something ingrained which sin points to our weakness in the flesh, something manageable and is different than evil. The reason O.T. saints were often dealt harshly with was they developed lifestyle choices against God, seeking false idols and other gods.\

This is beyond just a momentary sin or lapse in judgement. REPEAT

/The second stage of spiritual growth (autonomy) means the Bel has detached from cosmic viewpoint and is now completely dependent on God. This means the lust of the flesh has almost no life inside their soul structure. Like any stage even maturity, the Bel can fall away and backslide.\

So please do not believe you have a victory and it is all over…now you can relax because you got this spiritual life all figured out.

There is a habitual nature in spiritual growth.

/Spiritual growth does not drop in your lap nor will it grow if it is left alone. It is a conscious lifestyle choice that needs attention and water from the Word habitually. Stage two will put the Bel in a place where they will learn contentment in very difficult circumstances.\

In growing in this area God will also now be able to bless more because your capacity is enlarged. REPEAT

There are tests along the way!

/All blessings, crowns and rewards in time and eternity where established in eternity past. It is when the Bel gains spiritual ground that God can allow the flood gate to pop open along the way because the Bel is capable of handling it and it will not drag him/her away from the plan of God.\

Now God respects free will so that same Bel who is gaining ground can step away and destroy blessings but ultimately God will work much closer with a Bel who has developed a serious love relationship with Him because God now knows you are reaching maturity and striving for His will.