

Matt 13:10 And the disciples  
came and said to Him, "Why do  
You speak to them in parables ?"  
11 And He answered and said to  
them, "To you it has been granted  
to know the mysteries of the  
kingdom of heaven, but to them  
it has not been granted.

The very first thing we learn about the parables is that they tell us of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whenever you read a parable you are reading about the church Jesus was going to establish!

The Kingdom of Heaven is called the Kingdom of God in the parallel passage to Mt 13.10 in Luke 8.10.

We read of the time of the establishment of that Kingdom in Dan 2:44 "And in the days of those kings [the Roman Empire – GJC] the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.

The King of this kingdom is  
Jesus and we read a description  
of the King starting at Isa 9:6

Isa 9.6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. 7 There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

The church and the kingdom are synonymous from Acts 2 forward in the Scriptures.

Acts 2:34 "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: "The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, 35 Until I make Thine enemies a footstool for Thy feet." 36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ — this Jesus whom you crucified."

Acts 2:47 praising God, and  
having favor with all the people.  
And the Lord was adding to their  
number day by day those who  
were being saved.

There can be no doubt that the church is the “number” of Acts 2.47 to which they were added as we continue reading in Acts.

Acts 5:11 And great fear came upon the whole church , and upon all who heard of these things.



Returning to our Lord's discussion about  
parables –

Mt 13.12 "For whoever has, to him shall  
more be given, and he shall have an  
abundance; but whoever does not have,  
even what he has shall be taken away  
from him. 13 "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.

Parables are easy to apply for those who have a knowledge of the Kingdom, but to those who refuse to receive Jesus' words, they seem only as childish riddles. They do not understand.

Mt 13.14 "And in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, 'You will keep on hearing, but will not understand; And you will keep on seeing, but will not perceive;  
15 For the heart of this people has become dull, And with their ears they scarcely hear, And they have closed their eyes Lest they should see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart and return, And I should heal them.'

Those who are members of the Lord's church should easily see the message in the parables for what it is – How things will be in the Lord's family!! And quite often in that message, a rebuke for those religious people who would not accept Jesus' words.

Mt 13.16 "But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. 17 "For truly I say to you, that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it; and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

Jesus tells these simple stories to the religious leaders of the day and they never apply them to themselves.

Luke 15:1 Now all the tax-gatherers and the sinners were coming near Him to listen to Him. 2 And both the Pharisees and the scribes began to grumble, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

Jesus then begins to illustrate the error of the Pharisees and scribes as they grumble about Him eating with sinners. Jesus then tells the parable of the lost sheep, and the lost coin. All of these illustrate the reason for being in the company of sinners. They are lost and God would have them all to know of His love.

Next Jesus tells the parable of the prodigal son to illustrate God's love for the Gentiles and not the Jews alone. Included in this tale is the rejection of the Jews of God's love for others as illustrated by the grumbling of the Pharisees and the scribes and their refusal to hear Jesus (think of the older brother in the parable).

Jesus then goes on to the parable of the unrighteous steward, specifically to the disciples about wisely using the funds God gave them on earth, however, the Pharisees were also listening.



Luke 16:14 Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, were listening to all these things, and they were scoffing at Him. 15 And He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God.

16 "The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John; since then the gospel of the kingdom of God is preached, and every one is forcing his way into it. 17 "But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one stroke of a letter of the Law to fail.

When we look at this statement,  
“The Law and the Prophets were  
proclaimed until John; since then the  
gospel of the kingdom of God is  
preached, and every one is forcing  
his way into it,” we have to ask  
ourselves if Jesus means that the  
kingdom began with John’s  
preaching. – NO!

We find our answer in several other Scriptures, but most easily understood is the answer given in Hebrews.

Heb 8:6 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises. 7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second.

There would not be three covenants; one for Moses, one for John the Baptist and one for Jesus – but two covenants. Moses' covenant would be done away with and Jesus' covenant established – as a result of Jesus' death on the cross.

Heb 9:13 For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled, sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

15 And for this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, in order that since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. 16 For where a covenant is, there must of necessity be the death of the one who made it. 17 For a covenant is valid only when men are dead, for it is never in force while the one who made it lives.



Lk 16.17 "But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one stroke of a letter of the Law to fail."

Did the first covenant (“Law of Moses and the Ten Commandments) fail when it was replaced by the second covenant (Jesus’ covenant)?

No, the first covenant was fulfilled.

Luke 24:44 Now He said to them,  
"These are My words which I  
spoke to you while I was still  
with you, that all things which  
are written about Me in the Law  
of Moses and the Prophets and  
the Psalms must be fulfilled ."

Jesus fulfilled the first covenant.

He established the kingdom.

He was crowned king.

He established a better covenant.

Col 2:12 having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. 13 And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, 14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

Are you a part of that church of the New Covenant, having been buried with Christ in baptism?

Act 2:38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Why not now?