

Who Do You Say That I Am?

Seeing and Delighting in Jesus through an Expository
Journey through the **Gospel of Matthew**

157- Jesus Teaches the People in Parables- Part 13
Becoming a Disciple of the Kingdom of Heaven

Church June 28, 2026

Matthew 13:51&52

51 "Have you understood all these things?" They said to Him, "Yes."

52 And Jesus said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a head of a household, who brings out of his treasure things new and old."

*To the Glory of God the Father; God the Son;
and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

The Holy Bible that we hold in our Hands, is a collection of 66 Books that make up a small Library of Divine Truth. And those 66 Books are the ONLY Books on the Face of the Earth that were originally written using a mysterious Process called, "*Inspiration*".

Many years ago, I wrote a "*White Paper*" on the "*Doctrine of Inspiration*"- which goes into great Detail about what "Inspiration" IS and is NOT- that you may want to get and read. Because there is a lot of Confusion in our Day about what the Bible is; what it's for; how to use the Bible; and just what Terms like, "*Inspiration*"; "*Exegesis*"; "*Hermeneutics*"; and "*Sola Scriptura*" mean.

But it is very Important for you to understand that the Christian Church did NOT *create* the Bible. That is simply NOT True. That is a ridiculous and historically inaccurate Lie- that has been peddled by the "Roman religious System" for many Centuries- but it is simply NOT True!

The Holy Scriptures had been "received" from God the Holy Spirit; by 40 men; over a 1500 year Time-frame; was written down; copied; and was in wide circulation and use by millions of people throughout the entire "known World" for *hundreds* of years BEFORE the Church Council met in 382AD that "defined" *which* Books should be included in what they called, the "*Canon of sacred Scripture*"¹. So, rather than teach the Church "created" the Bible- we should teach

¹ The word, "*Canon*" has to do with a "*Rule*" or a "*Measure*". So, the "*Canon of sacred Scripture*" merely identified which Books (out of literally thousands) that should be included in the "*Rule*" or the "*Measure*" of the "*once for all given to the Saints*" Faith.

the Church simply “recognized” and officially and formally “acknowledged” or “received” what the sovereign Work of God the Holy Spirit had already done- in giving God’s people, the “sacred Scriptures”. So, the Church did NOT create the Bible- the Bible created the Church!

So, we should see the 39 Books of the Old Testament as the inspired; inerrant; and infallible Word of the one, true, and living God within the *inferior* “First” or the “Old” Covenant. So, the Old Testament is True; Reliable; Trustworthy; and fully Inspired. But those Books are also “Incomplete”- as, many Times, within the Old Testament Books themselves, we read about God’s Promise to bring in an infinitely “BETTER” Covenant. And that is WHY the unknown Writer said this in

Hebrews 8:7-13:

7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second.

8 For finding fault with them, He says, "BEHOLD, DAYS ARE COMING, SAYS THE LORD, WHEN I WILL EFFECT A NEW COVENANT WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AND WITH THE HOUSE OF JUDAH;

9 NOT LIKE THE COVENANT WHICH I MADE WITH THEIR FATHERS ON THE DAY WHEN I TOOK THEM BY THE HAND TO LEAD THEM OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT; FOR THEY DID NOT CONTINUE IN MY COVENANT, AND I DID NOT CARE FOR THEM, SAYS THE LORD.

10 "FOR THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY LAWS INTO THEIR MINDS, AND I WILL WRITE THEM ON THEIR HEARTS. AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.

11 "AND THEY SHALL NOT TEACH EVERYONE HIS FELLOW CITIZEN, AND EVERYONE HIS BROTHER, SAYING, 'KNOW THE LORD,' FOR ALL WILL KNOW ME, FROM THE LEAST TO THE GREATEST OF THEM.

12 "FOR I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR INIQUITIES, AND I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SINS NO MORE." [Jeremiah 31:31-35]

13 When He said, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.

... so, we MUST read and study and understand the 39 Books of the Old Covenant in their correct and proper Context- as being Inspired; Inerrant; Infallible; AND Incomplete!

Now the entire Time Jesus lived on the Earth as “fully God and fully Man- in the same Body; at the same Time- without Conflict or Contradiction”- the

“Scriptures” were ONLY the 39 Books of the Old Testament. And in those Books- was the Revelation of God to Man- *within* the Context of the Old Covenant.

And Jesus *loved* those 39 Books! And He loved them so much- that He NEVER disobeyed a single Word found in any of those 39 Books! Jesus humbled Himself to be *joyfully* Submitted to the Authority of those 39 Books- the *entire* Time He was on the Earth! And so, Jesus NEVER operated for a single Second in violation of those Books!

The Reality is that Jesus NEVER did ANYTHING on His Own! He ONLY said what the Father told Him to say! He ONLY did what the Father told Him to do! He was perfectly led by God the Holy Spirit! And so, Jesus NEVER initiated any new Teaching on His Own; and He NEVER contradicted any Teaching from the 39 Books that was already existing! And Jesus is the ONLY Person, who ever did that! Nobody before or since Jesus has ever loved God with ALL his Heart, Soul, Mind, and Strength; and NOBODY before or since Jesus has ever loved his Neighbor as Himself!

But Jesus DIDN'T do all of that- simply because He *could*. No, there was a very important Reason; a Divine Purpose behind WHY Jesus loved and obeyed God – in perfect Accord with the Old Testament Scriptures. And that was so He could FULFILL them!

Jesus' perfect Obedience to ALL that God had given in those 39 Books was designed to produce perfect Righteousness! You see, back in **Deuteronomy 6:24&25** Moses was “moved” by God the Holy Spirit to write:

24 “So the Lord commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God for our good always and for our survival, as it is today.

25 “It will be righteousness for us if we are careful to observe all this commandment before the Lord our God, just as He commanded us.

... so, God promised Righteousness to ALL who perfectly obeyed! Yet, In all the years after God gave that Law- NOBODY ever accomplished that. Jesus is the ONLY one, who obeyed- ALL that God had given; in Thought; Word; Deed; and Intent of the Heart; 24/7/365- the entire Time He was on the Earth! And it was through His perfect Obedience to ALL that God had commanded in those 39 Books- that allowed Jesus to EARN His own, personal, spotless Righteousness! So, we know that Jesus came to this earth...

... to save His people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21)

... and we know that Jesus also came to this Earth...

... to seek and to save that which was lost. (Luke 19:10)

... but as we have gone through 13 Chapters of **Matthew**- we have learned that Jesus also came to this Earth...

- To *fulfill* the Law of Moses (the Old Covenant)
- To bring a *decisive* End to the Old Covenant
- To establish the New Covenant
- To bring Judgment to the Covenant Breakers; to Jerusalem; to the Temple; and to the Leaders of the Jews
- To Earn spotless Righteousness

... and Jesus came to this Earth to establish the eternal Kingdom of Heaven! And Jesus did ALL of that through His Life; Death; and Resurrection!

Now we know that, even though God commanded perfect Obedience to the Law under the Old Covenant- NOBODY is saved by or through their Obedience to God! Salvation ONLY comes to fallen Humans BY the Grace of God and THROUGH the Gift of saving Faith! So, Salvation DOES NOT come to anyone based on their Desire or their Efforts to obey!

God deals with Sinners- BY His Grace. Which means God MUST come to us- we CANNOT go to Him! So, God MUST *initiate* ALL Aspects of Salvation- because as lost and fallen Sinners- we are spiritually Dead! But we are also saved THROUGH Faith! And so, we MUST believe; we MUST trust; we MUST embrace and hope! Yet, because we are fallen and spiritually Dead Sinners- God MUST also initiate that as well.

So, God gives us BOTH the Desire and the Power to believe and to trust and to embrace and hope- in the Miracle of the New Birth. But what exactly are we supposed to believe IN? What are we to Trust; and embrace and hope IN?

We are to behold; see; understand; acknowledge and comprehend WHO Jesus is and WHAT Jesus did for us! So, we are to believe in Him personally- AND in WHAT He alone did! And by hoping and believing and trusting and embracing WHO Jesus is and WHAT Jesus alone has done- the Promise from a God, Who CANNOT lie- is that we will be saved! So, the entire FOCUS of the New Covenant is on Jesus and on His finished Work!

But that was True under the Old Covenant as well! And so, every single Jew, who was truly saved under the Old Covenant- was saved BY the Grace of God and through the Gift of saving Faith that God sovereignly gave them- in the Miracle of the New Birth! The ONLY difference about that- is that now- we see Jesus clearly; while they saw Him afar off and vaguely!

And so, every Jew- who was saved under the Old Covenant, was given the Understanding that he simply could NOT obey God's Law- *perfectly and continuously!* And so, God dealt with those people to bring them to a Place of humble Repentance and genuine Faith! And so, for them- the Law acted as a "Tutor"- to bring those people to true Salvation *in, by, and through* the Lord Jesus and His finished Work (**Galatians 3:24&25**)! So, it was ALWAYS and ONLY about Jesus!

And that is WHY Dr. Luke gave us several Examples, early in his Gospel Record, of two Old Testament Jews (Simeon and Anna), who had lived under the Auspices of the Old Covenant their entire Lives. And all through their Lives- as they endeavored to obey God's Law- they freely acknowledged their Failure to obey it- *perfectly*. But because God had chosen them for Salvation from before the Foundation of the World- God blessed them by convicting their Hearts and Minds concerning their Sins; granting them the Gift of Repentance; and by graciously giving them both the Power and Desire to believe!

And so, even though they were old; and had lived every Day of their Lives under the inferior Revelation of the Old Covenant; and even though they had NEVER heard Jesus preach a single Message; nor seen Him perform a single Miracle; nor witnessed His Crucifixion; nor His Resurrection- nevertheless- they BELIEVED! And as soon as they saw the baby Jesus- they immediately *abandoned* the Old Covenant and fully *embraced* the New!

So, we must keep in mind something that people tend to forget. There is ONLY one, single Religion in the 66 Books of the Holy Bible! There is NOT two different Religions- one in the "Old" and another one in the "New"- as so many teach today. That is simply NOT True.

There is the partial and temporary Revelation of the Religion found in the 39 Books of the Old Covenant; and there is the final, full, and completed Revelation of the Religion in the 27 Books of the New Testament! The *first* Revelation of God was *Partial*; the *second* Revelation is *Complete*; *Perfect*; and *Finished*! The *first* was *Inferior*; the *second* is *Superior*! The *first* had Signs; Symbols; Types and Shadows. The second has Reality! The *first* contained earthly things that were *visible*; *tangible*; and *temporary*; while the *second* contains heavenly things that are *invisible*; *intangible*; and *eternal*!

So, everybody, who has been chosen for Salvation, from before the Foundation of the World, have ALL been saved the very SAME Way: BY Grace and THROUGH Faith! NOBODY was ever saved by Works; and NOBODY ever will be!

Under the Old Covenant- God dealt *primarily* with one People and one Nation. But under the infinitely superior New Covenant- God deals with People, who will represent EVERY Nation; Tribe; People, and Language on Earth! The

Old Covenant was a “*Come and See*” Covenant; while the New is a “*Go and Tell*” Covenant!

Now within the Old Covenant- God promised *amazing* Blessings on His people- BUT ONLY IF they obeyed His Commandments! In **Deuteronomy 28:1-14**, He told them,

- 1 “Now it shall be, if you diligently obey the Lord your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth.**
- 2 “All these blessings will come upon you and overtake you if you obey the Lord your God:**
- 3 “Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country.**
- 4 “Blessed shall be the offspring of your body and the produce of your ground and the offspring of your beasts, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock.**
- 5 “Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.**
- 6 “Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.**
- 7 “The Lord shall cause your enemies who rise up against you to be defeated before you; they will come out against you one way and will flee before you seven ways.**
- 8 “The Lord will command the blessing upon you in your barns and in all that you put your hand to, and He will bless you in the land which the Lord your God gives you.**
- 9 “The Lord will establish you as a holy people to Himself, as He swore to you, if you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk in His ways.**
- 10 “So all the peoples of the earth will see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they will be afraid of you.**
- 11 “The Lord will make you abound in prosperity, in the offspring of your body and in the offspring of your beast and in the produce of your ground, in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers to give you.**
- 12 “The Lord will open for you His good storehouse, the heavens, to give rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hand; and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.**
- 13 “The Lord will make you the head and not the tail, and you only will be above, and you will not be underneath, if you listen to the commandments of the Lord your God, which I charge you today, to observe them carefully,**
- 14 and do not turn aside from any of the words which I command you today, to the right or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.**

... but in the next 43 verses- God also promised those very same people that He would “Come” to them in frightening and unthinkable Judgment- if they did NOT delight themselves to obey His Commandments!

And that is what constituted the *First* or the *Old* Covenant! God would bless and favor those people- IF- they obeyed! And IF they obeyed- God would be with them and God Himself would be their God and they would be His people!

But that first Covenant was fully “*Conditional*”. So, God said, “*If you obey Me- you will be My people and I will be your God!*” But if they did NOT obey- if those people proved beyond any Doubt that they did NOT love God by “whoring” after other gods; if they committed “spiritual Adultery”; if they found the Fullness of their Joy in things that have been made and in things that are passing away- rather than in Him; then they would “break the Covenant”; and God promised to “Come” near to them- for *horrific* Judgment! God said,

Then I will draw near to you for judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers and against the adulterers and against those who swear falsely, and against those who oppress the wage earner in his wages, the widow and the orphan, and those who turn aside the alien and do not fear Me,” says the Lord of hosts. (Malachi 3:5)

... and so, in **Jeremiah 31:31&32**, God said,

**31 “Behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,
32 not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord.**

... so, the Net Result is that those people broke the Covenant! Yet God promised to save SOME of them in the New Covenant! But He will judge the others!

Now we are finishing the first Section in Matthew’s gospel Record- where Jesus spoke to the people in Parables. And as we have learned, Jesus used Parables as a Means of keeping some people Ignorant of the Kingdom of Heaven while revealing it to others. So, Jesus using Parables was a form of Divine Judgment against:

- Those who were “Jews” *outwardly* but NOT *inwardly*
- Those who were circumcised in their Flesh but NOT their Hearts
- Those who were the *natural* sons of Abraham but NOT the “children of Promise”

- Those who had “broken” the *first* Covenant
- Those who thought they “had”
- Those who were deceived about their own Salvation
- Those who were deceived about the Future of Israel

Now even though it is True that Jesus NEVER violated a single tenet of the Old Covenant- He absolutely DID violate the false Teaching of the Pharisees. And He violated that Man-made Teaching all the Time! So, while Jesus obeyed the Law that God gave to Moses- *perfectly*- He refused to submit to the sinful Interpretation of that holy Law that *dominated* 1st Century Israel through the Teachings of the Pharisees.

So, it is very Important to understand that, “The Way in which the Pharisees and the other “Covenant-breakers” were interpreting the Old Testament Prophets is the main Reason they rejected Jesus as being the Messiah!” Let me put this another Way- “The unbiblical; ungodly; unscriptural; Man-made Way the Pharisees *interpreted* the Old Testament Prophets about the Messiah was the Basis behind WHY they could see and hear and touch the very incarnate God Himself- “Immanuel”- and hate Him; despise what He said; and call Him, “Beelzebul”! Another Way of saying this is, “The Eschatology of the Pharisees was the Foundation behind their Hatred and Rejection of the ONLY sinless Man, who ever lived”!

In other words, the Pharisees’ Teaching of “*Last Things*”- concerning what the Messiah would do when He arrived- was centered around several Issues:

- He would raise up an Army of mighty Jewish Warriors
- He would forcefully evict the pagan Roman Soldiers
- He would restore the Kingdom of Israel back to the Boundaries it had under King Solomon
- He would re-patriate the Jews who had been dispersed through War and Persecution
- He would wage War and defeat ALL the Gentile Nations of the World
- He would return to Jerusalem; ride down “Main Street” in Victory on his white Stallion; and sit down on the Throne of King David
- He would “rule the World” with a “Rod of Iron”

... so, the very Core of their false, unbiblical, and Man-made Theology was: the Glory of the *restored* Kingdom of Israel!

And yet, in 3-1/2 years of Ministry- Jesus NEVER mentioned it! The Restoration of the Kingdom of Israel- which was the very Center of the Theology of the Jewish Teachers- was NEVER mentioned by Jesus! And that greatly

confused the Jewish Rulers at first- because WHY would the true Messiah object to a Theology that put the Jews and Israel first?

But as Time went on, and they realized that Jesus was NOT on board with their View of the Future- that Reality brought about their abject Hated and Rejection of Jesus! And that fueled the amazing Hostility that existed between the Pharisees and Jesus that you can literally feel as your read the Gospel Records.

In fact, Jesus went out of His Way to *reject* their View and to actually work *against* what they were teaching- by doing and saying things that would *defeat* them.

For Example, Jesus spoke repeatedly of the “*Kingdom of God*” and the “*Kingdom of Heaven*”. But He never mentioned a restored “*Kingdom of Israel*”! And then in **Luke 17:21**- Jesus said that the Kingdom He was promoting was NOT a *physical* Kingdom with *geographical* Boundaries!

And He taught that- right in front of those Men! And that was terribly insulting to the Men who were actively promoting a physical and earthly Kingdom! And when discussing what it would look like for God’s people to actually belong to the “*Kingdom of Heaven*”- Jesus said that all who enter the Kingdom of Heaven MUST have a “*Righteousness*” that *exceeded* the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees! And then, in **Matthew 5:43-48**, Jesus used an Example of what that “*superior Righteousness*” would look like- that He knew would be categorically Opposed to what those religious Hypocrites were teaching:

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.'

**44 But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,
45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.**

46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

47 If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

48 Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Now the Context in which this Statement was given is: Jesus was talking to 1st Century Jews, who were living every Day of their Lives under the brutal Domination of the pagan Roman Government! And so, the *primary* Enemy of the Jews, at that Time- was the Romans! Ancient rabbinical Prayers discovered from

the 1st Century tell us that the average Jew of that day- literally *seethed* in his Hatred of the pagan, Gentile Romans. And it was common for the Jews to pray (publicly) that God would judge those polytheistic Pagans with great Suffering and a terrible Death!

And yet, this Man, who holds Himself out as being the long-awaited Messiah, was teaching them to love those Pagans; to pray for them; and to actually do Good to them! And then Jesus personally *modeled* what He taught; and He ministered in both Love and Mercy to several of the Roman Soldiers!

And when the Jews heard and saw these things- they reasoned to themselves, “*Surely, the real Messiah would NEVER do that!*” IN **Matthew 5:43**, we see that the Pharisees actually taught the Jews that *hating* the Pagans was a godly Trait! And so, in their minds- Jesus couldn’t possibly be the Messiah!

And yet, Jesus taught that, being both willing and able to “love your Enemies”- proved that you had already experienced the Miracle of the New Birth and were genuinely a Part of the Kingdom of Heaven! Now think about this! Teaching things like, “*loving your Enemies*”- that today are universally recognized as being godly Christian Traits- became part of the Foundation behind the sinful Rejection of Jesus by the Pharisees!

Now keep in mind that this Truth of loving your Enemies is *perfectly* in Accord with what God gave to Moses and the Prophets all through the 39 Books of the Old Testament. And so, Jesus was NOT in Violation of anything God had already spoken. Yet, He WAS in complete Violation of the false Interpretation that the Pharisees had invented! So, because Jesus did NOT fulfill *their* Man-made Theology nor their false Eschatology- the Jewish Rulers (and many other Jews)- *categorically* rejected Him!

Another Way of understanding the unbiblical Theology the Pharisees had invented about what the Messiah was going to do when He finally got here- is that it was a “*Jewish-centric*” Theology- in that it had the Jews; the City of Jerusalem; the Temple; and the Nation of Israel- at the very Center of it all! And these were things the Pharisees thought the Old Testament Prophets emphasized. And yet, Jesus *refused* to go along with this great Desire!

And THAT was the Basis behind WHY they rejected Him! But we have to remember that Jesus was God! And that means He was Right and those men were Wrong! Yet, instead of being humble and repenting- they came to the Conclusion that since Jesus was teaching against a *restored, earthly, and physical* “Kingdom of Israel” and was promoting an *invisible, eternal, and spiritual* “Kingdom of Heaven”- that He could NOT possibly be the Messiah!

Beloved, Jesus disappointed people all the Time! Because many of the Issues that were *paramount* to them- Jesus NEVER even mentioned! And yet, He

was being perfectly led by God the Holy Spirit and spoke ONLY the Words of God!

For Example, the entire Time He was on the earth, Jesus NEVER mentioned all the Violence perpetrated on the Descendants of Abraham by the Pagan Romans! He NEVER talked about how they had *repeatedly* desecrated the Temple; mocked the Jews; and blasphemed against God! And yet, to the Men, who supposedly were living Experts of the Law (Pharisees), Jesus promised things like,

You serpents, you brood of vipers, how will you escape the sentence of hell? Therefore, behold, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes; some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city, so that upon you may fall the guilt of all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. Truly I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation. (Matthew 23:33-36).

... and to THE MOST sacred City on planet Earth, Jesus said,

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! (Matthew 23:37-38)

... and to THE very Center of Jewish Life and Worship, Jesus said,

Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down. (Matthew 24:2)

... so, this is how the long-awaited Messiah talks?

“This is the Man we have been waiting for all these many years? To hear this kind of Talk- after all we have been through? To receive NO Praise; NO Commendation; No Accolades; NO Encouragement from this Guy? ONLY Judgement? ONLY Condemnation? ONLY Damnation? ONLY Criticism? Who does this Guy think He is? I mean, the real Messiah would welcome us with open arms! We have ALWAYS hated the Pagans! We have NEVER tried to win them; or teach them; or convert them; or even befriend them! We prayed for their Death! We asked God to destroy them!

Yet, this Guy wants God to damn us? To make Jerusalem desolate? To tear down the Temple? Why would the Messiah want that? I mean, the last Group to

tear our Temple down was the evil Babylonians! But Jesus is a fellow-Jew! Why is He wanting what the Pagans wanted? Why would God want to tear down the very thing God told us to build? This just makes NO Sense!"

So, because Jesus' Teaching was NOT "*Jewish-centric*"; because Jesus' Teaching did NOT include a restored Kingdom of Israel; and because Jesus promised Judgment to the Pharisees: and Jerusalem; as well as the Temple itself- the Pharisees and many of the unsaved "*Covenant-breakers*"- reasoned that Jesus could not possibly be the Messiah! And so, they not only *rejected* Him- but worked to have Him *murdered*! And all the while they did this- they were convinced in their Hearts that God was pleased with them!

Beloved, this is a level of Deception that is beyond any Comprehension! It is actually Frightening! These men not only *blasphemed* the Holy Spirit- by denying Jesus as He *physically* stood before them- they committed this unpardonable Sin- while convinced that God would praise them!

So, this is the Context of what was going on as Jesus taught the people in Parables about the Kingdom of Heaven. And so, now, as He completes this portion of His Teaching, Jesus said,

51 "Have you understood all these things?" They said to Him, "Yes."

52 And Jesus said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a head of a household, who brings out of his treasure things new and old."

Here, Jesus was commissioning His Disciples as future Teachers and Heralders of the Gospel. What He said here is that those, who have been blessed by God to understand His Parables about the Kingdom of Heaven are equipped to use both foundational Old Testament Truths (the "old Treasures") in combination with the new Teachings He has just given about the Kingdom of Heaven (the "new Treasures")! And that the correct Combination of BOTH would be useful in shepherding the Sheep, who would be saved in the Future and be a part of His Kingdom (Church).

So, after He taught seven different Parables about the invisible, , spiritual, and eternal Kingdom of Heaven- that He *initiated* during His 1st Advent- He asked those He had chosen to represent Him,

Have you understood all these things?

... and while the Pharisees along with many other natural Jews were *seriously* Confused as to what Jesus had been talking about in those seven Parables and WHY He went out of His Way to *exclude* any Teaching about a future, restored

Kingdom of Israel- those He had *personally* chosen to be His “Shaliah”; His “Representatives”; His “Apostles” all answered in Unison,

Yes!

... and when He was satisfied that the men He had chosen to represent Him- after He prayed all Night long- understood what those seven Parables were about- Jesus then said- ONLY to those men,

Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a head of a household, who brings out of his treasure things new and old.

Now back in the 1st Century in Israel- a "Scribe" was a highly *respected* Expert in the Old Testament Law. So, Jesus was saying that a *true* “Scholar” of God's Word- a real, genuine “Scribe”- who is called by God; and who is NOT one like the evil scribes, who were associated with the Pharisees- is a Man, who has learned the Truth of God- yes! But he has learned that Truth- in the Way; and according to the Pattern God *desires* for him to know those Truths! And in this Case- that meant understanding the Parables He has just given.

So, the Comprehension of the Apostles- about what the Old Testament Prophets foretold about the Kingdom in the existing Scriptures- MUST be fashioned and interpreted “through the Lens” of what He taught them about the Kingdom! And so, what they would understand by combining BOTH the Old and New Teachings- would cause their Understanding about the Kingdom of the Future- to be DIFFERENT from what the Pharisees were teaching!

But it also meant that these Men have also been chosen to comprehend- WHY Jesus is doing and saying things that are so Different from what the average Rabbi of the 1st Century did and taught! And History proves that, while they were *initially* confused about a lot of things- after they had been endued with Power from on High- in the Upper Room- they DID understand! And, even though they were, *initially* very wishy-washy and inconsistent and weak- after they went through that Divine Experience- they NEVER wavered; they were strong; confident; and assured!

So, by saying this to these men at that Time- meant that Jesus was taking these very ordinary Fishermen and Followers and *elevating* them to this higher Status! So, when Jesus said,

... every scribe who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a head of a household, who brings out of his treasure things new and old

... He meant that, just like a wealthy, Jewish “Head of a Household” back in the 1st Century- retrieves valuable Items from a Storeroom to care for his Family- a true; called and chosen Disciple of Jesus Christ is *expected* to be a knowledgeable Steward of God’s Word. And that is why God the Holy Spirit spoke through the Apostle Paul some years later and said,

2Timothy 2:15

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

This apostolic Command says that ALL, who lay claim to be called into the Ministry MUST “be diligent” to:

... present yourself approved to God ...

... but HOW should we present ourselves approved to God?

... as a workman ...

... or as a skilled Craftsman ...

... who does not need to be ashamed ...

... where the word, “**ashamed**” actually means: *condemned!*

So, HOW do we do that? HOW do we Ministers, become a “skilled Craftsman; HOW do we present ourselves “approved by God”; and HOW do we avoid being Condemned?

... [by] accurately handling the word of truth

And so, those men will “bring out”; they will “draw upon” the rich History and amazing Promises of Old Testament Truth (the "old" Treasure). But they will combine that Truth- *correctly*- in Context- with the fresh, Life-changing Reality of Jesus’ Ministry of Grace and Truth (the "new" Treasure)! And they will show how they BOTH fit together- *seamlessly!*

And they will do that by understanding the Truth of the 39 Old Testament Books “*through the Lens*” of the 27 New Testament Books! They will NOT take the Truth of the Old Testament as a “*stand alone Religion*”- but will understand that there is but one, single Religion taught in the 66 Books of the Holy Bible.

So, when we correctly understand the Old Testament Prophecies about the Future, “*through the Lens*” of the superior Revelation of the New Testament- we

see that the Future is NOT “*Jewish-centric*” at all! It is completely “*Jesus-centric*”!

But if we simply base our Understanding about the Meaning of the Old Testament Prophecies about the Future on ONLY what the Prophets themselves said- without seeing that Truth “through the Lens” of the superior Truth about Jesus- we will make the very SAME Mistake the Pharisees did! And that is what Jesus was warning us NOT to do!

Amen! Let’s pray.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your Pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone