

# THE PARABLES OF JESUS

## Part 2

### The Kingdom through the Parables

In part 1, we saw that Jesus spoke in parables for two primary reasons, what were they?  
There was another significant reason that Jesus spoke in parables, any ideas?

Mark 4:11

And He was saying to them, to you has been given **the mystery of the kingdom of God**, but those who are outside get everything in parables.

What did Jesus mean by “mystery”?

What was the primary “mystery of the Kingdom” that the parables were revealing?

Notice the list of some of the “mysteries” mentioned in the bible:

The mystery of the hardening (blinding) of Israel (Romans 11:25-27)

The mystery of the resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:51)

The mystery of his will (Ephesians 1:9)

The mystery of Christ (Ephesians 3)

The mystery of Christ and his church (Ephesians 5:32)

The mystery of the gospel (Ephesians 6:19)

The mystery of lawlessness (2 Thessalonians 2:7)

The mystery of faith (1 Timothy 3:9)

The mystery of godliness (1 Timothy 3:16)

The mystery of God (Revelation 10:7)

The truth is, all these mysteries are “mysteries of the kingdom”. Yet in my opinion, there **is one primary mystery** that the parables were given to reveal. What is it?

*Answer:*

*That the kingdom of God was a spiritual reality that at that time had begun to be received.*

Matthew 13:11,17

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.... 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.

What was the gospel (good news) of the kingdom?

Matthew 4:23

Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming **the gospel of the kingdom....**”

When did John the Baptist and Jesus say that the kingdom of God was “at hand”?

Matthew 3:2

Repent, for **the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**

Matthew 4:17

From that time, Jesus began to preach and say, “Repent, for **the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**”

Luke 17:20-21

Now having been questioned by the Pharisees as to **when the kingdom of God was coming**, He answered them and said, “The **kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed**; nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is or, ‘There is it. For behold, **the kingdom of God is in your midst.**”

But there was more to this “good news” ....

Matthew 16:27-28

For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and will then repay every man according to his deeds. Truly I say to you, **there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.**

According to Matthew 16, what was the gospel (good news) of the kingdom?

Perhaps at this point we should rephrase our statement from above:

*The kingdom of God was a spiritual reality that at that time had begun to be received, **and, would fully arrive within the lifetime of Jesus’ first disciples.***

Jesus even gave the fulfillment of a visible event as a sign of this spiritual reality....

Luke 21:20,31-32

But **when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies**, then recognize that her desolation is near.... So you also, **when you see these things happening, recognize that the kingdom of God is near.** Truly I say to you, **this generation will not pass away until all things take place.**

Notice in Luke 18 that “eternal life”, “the kingdom”, and “salvation” are used interchangeably....

Luke 18:18,24,26,28-30

A ruler questioned Him, saying, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to **inherit eternal life?** .... And Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for those who are wealthy to **enter the kingdom of God!**... They who heard it said, “Then who can **be saved?**... Peter said, “Behold, we have left our own homes and followed You. And He said to them, “Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not receive many times as much at this time and **in the age to come, eternal life.**”

What does this tell us about the kingdom?

**When** was eternal life, salvation, and the kingdom to be received/inherited?

What was the “age to come”?

Matthew 12:32

Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, **either in this age or in the age to come.**

The kingdom is spiritual and is not of this realm....

John 3:3,5

Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God....** Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**

John 18:36

Jesus answered, **my kingdom is not of this world.** If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, **my kingdom is not of this realm.**

The kingdom of God is spiritual, and has been perfected within the New Covenant. It is within the New Covenant-kingdom that we have been raised from the realm of death and from the image of the old creation.

1 Corinthians 15:49-52

Just as we have borne **the image of the earthy**, we will also bear **the image of the heavenly.** Now I say this, brethren, that **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God**; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, **but we will all be changed**, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the **dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.**

2 Corinthians 3:9-12,18

For if the **ministry of condemnation** has glory, much more does the **ministry of righteousness** abound in glory. For indeed what **had glory**, in this case has no glory because of **the glory that surpasses it.** For if **that which fades away** was with glory, much more **that which remains** is in glory. Therefore, having such a hope, we use great boldness in our speech.... **But we all**, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, **are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory**, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

As we shall see, the parables of Jesus reveal this mystery of the kingdom.