

Bible Study Review Lessons 12, 13, 14 April 17th, 2018

Open Line Bible Study Lesson Twelve February 20, 2018

Tonight's Subject: The Challenge, (What did those hear that did not hear)

Now we get to the main question. HOW DID THESE PERSONS NOT HEAR THE WONDROUS TRUTHS JESUS SHARED WITH THEM? We've established it wasn't two messages from JESUS in two different places or two messages from JESUS in the same place. We've considered many of the blind spots that JESUS had to work through to make His point. His problem & challenge is getting through to the heart of His audience. Beyond their defenses, excuses, blindness & resistance what is happening here?

In M 13:11 as JESUS begins to answer their question, HE DROPS A BOMB ON THE DISCIPLES! JESUS states, "The Knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them". Right now, the LORD is telling them several things. First, there are secrets to the Kingdom of Heaven. This means that they have been undisclosed. You not only didn't use them, you didn't even know they existed. Second, the secrets to the Kingdom of Heaven can be understood by the grace and direction of GOD! JESUS is declaring I AM GIVING YOU THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SECRETS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN! These secrets have knowledge. They do exist and they can be applied, understood and lived in. No longer are you unfamiliar with the kingdom of Heaven. Third, I AM GIVING THEM TO YOU NOW!!!! YOU HAVE THEM! Fourth, they have already been given to you! Don't ask for them instead receive what I have done. I have already given them to you. They do not realize what gifts they already have from the FATHER and thus often ask for gifts they already have. This is one devil trick used well against the LORD's people. Fifth, there are still those in your midst who do not have these gifts. Everyone is not benefitting from the gifts as you could b/c everyone does not have access to them as you do.

Verse 12 teaches the Kingdom is like a river, never staid always moving. The river of life is GOD giving abundantly to those living in the Kingdom. It increases for those who look to it for direction. It is always decreasing for those who will not look to it. Unfortunately, satan can steal anything which they don't know is theirs or fail to use. In the Kingdom one group is always moving onward in GOD's purpose & the other's R being constantly robbed. The parables invite one group closer and close the door on others.

Parables are used by JESUS due to the condition of every heart. After Jesus has made reference to the Kingdom to the disciples, He then relates the need for parables to what the scripture has already stated about the condition of the human heart. M 10:13, "Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand". JESUS is referencing from Moses, Jeremiah, Isaiah and Ezekiel. Look at Deut 29:4, Jer 5:21 and Ezek 12:2. They say the problem JESUS encounters isn't new. It's older than sin that sin blinds the heart to insensitivity to truth. It also blinds the disciples from seeing what is wrong with those who come to them asking questions about JESUS teaching. Jesus further answers the question describing what Isaiah had to say that is repeated in M 13:14&15. People have heard and heard and heard and seen and seen and seen the faith described, sometimes walked out and worked out and given out BUT THEY JUST DON'T GET IT THEMSELVES! They appear stuck and unable to learn or retain most of whatever they hear and see in the Christian faith. This is fulfillment of these prophecies!

Look at the beginning of M 13:15, "For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes." Jesus uses the analogy of a callous to describe the condition and resistance of the human heart receiving the truth when it is shared. Therefore this callous, this shell, this wall, this stronghold

must be removed to enhance the possibility the listener actually hears the truth being spoken rather than the distortion of truth the enemy works in the mind when the heart is calloused. Instead of having a soft heart or a heart that can be made soft the heart is hardened. Consider M 13:14, "You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving." We must pray HOLY SPIRIT remove from us our own calluses that have blinded us from seeing into the deeper places of Heaven and truths that surpass our minds or are very badly misinterpreted.

When JESUS brings up prophet Isaiah's vision of what he saw in Heavenly counsels we must consider the following. First, JESUS isn't referring to this to defend facts or doctrines that pivotal historical church figures believed. Second, JESUS was looking into the past remembering a conversation, HE no doubt was part of, that revolved around the knowledge the GOD-head possessed at how much damage was done to the conscience of man from the deadliness of sin. Third, JESUS was saying sin is so destructive to the human race that it will not be enough to tell them the truth alone. They can hear the truth over and over and that alone will not enable them to believe and receive it. Fourth, JESUS knows until the time is appropriate and other pre-requisites are fulfilled then persons will not be able to listen. JESUS is attempting to persuade the disciples to further understand why his audience isn't thoroughly ready to listen and heed HIS every word. The problem isn't the teacher nor is always exclusively the listener. Sometimes there are other issues unseen to the casual observer

Look back at the original question asked tonight. Let's review the answers now. They cannot hear JESUS b/c they do not know the secrets to the Kingdom of GOD. Those secrets have not been made known to them. The use of parables and its effect on the unrepentant heart keeps such persons from truly hearing the truth when it is shared. Sin hardens every heart into being calloused except grace softens the heart to receive the truth. Callouses continue to keep or hinder even committed disciples from seeing everything the FATHER longs for them to eventually see. The scripture is profound in meaning and its application is limited to our maturity and GOD's sovereign purpose.

Open Line Bible Study Lesson Thirteen March 6th, 2018

Tonight's subject "The Question" to "The Prophecy & the Word"

Too many when they read Isaiah 6 read into the verses that our Heavenly Father has determined to NOT allow persons to see the truth of HIS Kingdom when presented just b/c GOD decided so! At first glance in Isaiah 6, this appears to beso. The last 500 years or so of Church history has been influenced by the continued theological debate as to whether GOD has pre-destined persons to salvation or not or whether all can be saved. We are not going to be able to decide or debate that question here BUT we must avoid always believing or relying on our very first interpretation of any scripture verse. Our mind is not that renewed that we should have the unseen vanity to think our every interpretation of any verse is always correct, thorough and exhaustive of GOD's purpose and meaning.

When JESUS brings up prophet Isaiah's vision of what he saw in Heavenly counsels we must consider the following. First, JESUS isn't referring to this to defend facts or doctrines that pivotal historical church figures believed that are known as Calvinism or Wesleyan Arminianism. The conversation isn't to defend or criticize those issues. Second, JESUS was looking into the past remembering a conversation, HE no doubt was part of, that revolved around the knowledge the GOD-head possessed at how much damage was done to the conscience of man from the deadliness of sin.

Third, JESUS was saying sin is so destructive to the human race that it will not be enough to tell them the truth alone. They can hear the truth over and over and that alone will not enable them to believe and receive it. Fourth, JESUS knows until the time is appropriate and other pre-requisites are fulfilled then persons will not be able to listen. JESUS is attempting to persuade the disciples to further understand why his audience isn't thoroughly ready to listen and heed HIS every word. The problem isn't the teacher nor is always exclusively the listener. Sometimes there are other issues unseen to the casual observer. Now the more we understand and know the LORD's heart combining these truths together the more effective our intercession will become.

Look back at the original question asked tonight. We've attempted to answer it but let's review the answers now. They cannot hear JESUS b/c they do not know the secrets to the Kingdom of GOD. Those secrets have not been made known to them. The use of parables and its effect on the unrepentant heart keeps such persons from truly hearing the truth when it is shared. Sin hardens every heart into being calloused except grace softens the heart to receive the truth. Callouses continue to keep or hinder even committed disciples from seeing everything the FATHER longs for them to eventually see. The scripture is profound in meaning and its application is limited to our maturity and GOD's sovereign purpose. Please notice the statement made at the end of the 2nd paragraph on page 2. Last week, I asked a question seldom considered. Do we speak parables or do we speak in parables? We will explain this process HOLY SPIRIT still works today but has often gone unnoticed.

Consider the following. This must be followed through and understood in spirit, mind and heart! Jesus tells the disciples in paraphrase, "you have the ability to get it and others were not given the ability to get it". Most of us who are enabled to get it still don't get it altogether! What's going on? Look at verse 10. The disciples ask "why do you speak in parables?" What did they mean besides what we assume this means? We normally read into that question to JESUS that it was asked b/c the audience didn't understand what JESUS was saying to them. That is probably true and in some cases the story line makes it clear it's the primary issue. However it is not all. The disciples were not exclusively saying, "Hey JESUS, the audience didn't understand!" They are saying many things. First, they don't understand you. Second, why do you tell unusual, unknown stories we've never heard? In today's church culture we lose the significance of the statement from the gospels when the people proclaimed, "We have never heard anyone talk/teach like this before!" People had never heard anyone teach like JESUS did with creativity, authority, compassion, certainty and mystery rolled into one. JESUS stories were different! Third, why tell stories that force us to have to consider what is being said? Your stories involve mystery and hidden messages that leave some baffled as to whatever you meant or what your intention is in talking the way you do. Fourth, why don't you just speak in plain straightforward language that everyone will know what you clearly meant? Fifth, why don't you answer the questions we've asked first and then get to all those strange stories later we are baffled by? Sixth, their question was to denote the audience was offended at times by the strange stories and JESUS' priority in telling them. Seventh, (this was often asked JESUS) "why don't you teach like the scribes and Pharisees do?" Or in other words, "why are you not just like them in their teaching method and spirit?" Eight, apparently as JESUS stated in v. 17 some persons wanted to know the truth but they still were not allowed to do so.

This fact troubles us and should. Not b/c our GOD is at fault but b/c we haven't examined the meaning of this principle. While hunger is a pre-requisite for advancing into Kingdom truth it is not the only requirement. We must consider the LORD's plans, ways, principles and that trust and faith on our part are always needed. Nine, their question assumes they will apply the truth if JESUS would only further explain the truth in clearer language. THAT IS NOT TRUE. We have proof of that in this story. BECAUSE JESUS explains the story more clearly and they still do not GET IT! Ten, their question reveals their very limited knowledge and experience in actually knowing the living GOD. They want an explanation that satisfies everyone's perspective about understanding GOD!

They fail to see that GOD cannot be adequately explained away. GOD must be experienced! You must be born again and then your mind be born again in what the scriptures call having a renewed mind!

The last implication of their question we examine goes back to that peculiar question I first asked. Do we speak parables or do we speak in parables? When we hear the word parable we think of a story JESUS tells involving mystery & the need for interpretation & enlightenment to apply its meaning. We might think if JESUS didn't tell parables there would be no problems. We assume people didn't understand JESUS b/c JESUS told unusual stories we call parables that have to be interpreted or you get left in the dark. While some persons didn't receive JESUS due to His story telling approach that alone is not the primary basis for their rejection of Him. They couldn't deal with the light of GOD in JESUS. That was the first issue. Here's a question. How often do preachers/teachers/evangelists tell modern day parables? With the exception of illustrations this is seldom done. Instead we hear the parable's from scripture, other Bible stories and other old/new stories that people still don't always get the point no matter how plain spoken we might be. Ultimately, we are blind to truth not stories. Truth can be hidden in parables or everyday simple stories. So how do we speak parables or speak in parables? JESUS spoke parables most persons couldn't understand. Then sometimes he told the truth in straightforward ways and the truth was still not received. In this case JESUS was speaking in parable effect. His answers had the same effect as did HIS parable stories. Most anyone teaching the Scriptures today are speaking parables or parable effect. They are straightforward in their approach but their teaching is not heeded by those with a calloused heart. This is the parable effect. That is, it produces the same result as if we were teaching parables. Calloused hearts reject parables and stories. Speaking effectively and clearly is not all needed. Holy Spirit removes the callous as we pray, teach and love people. Nothing less works.

Open Line Bible Study

Lesson Fourteen

March 13, 2018

Tonight's subject "The Question" to "The Prophecy & the Word"

Let's look further at M13:13 to 13:15 M13:13 is more than JESUS' answer to their question. The great truth in verses 13 to 15 can get lost in the continued repetitiveness of those 3 verses. Verse 13 is more than an answer. It is the spoken truth of the living WORD of GOD speaking who HE is! The living WORD is speaking the spoken WORD! JESUS has made the written WORD so much a part of who HE is that He is not only speaking it, He is living it, He is thinking it, He is obeying it, He is responding to life through it! The written WORD has become how HE thinks and responds to life. Our challenge here is to not miss this beauty in JESUS b/c we fail to see how His incarnation forced HIM to empty Himself of all He was and then JESUS regained it again through submission, obedience and the study of the WORD of GOD. In v. 13 JESUS is speaking the WORD hidden in him as HE has come to know and trust it. Then in v. 14 & 15 JESUS takes the answer further. He probably thinks to Himself, "Whether they know who I am or not, let me take them to the WORD of GOD so that they will know my answer is the FATHER's answer. My answer is the FATHER's own counsel to the prophet Isaiah." So JESUS states in v. 14 & 15 the written WORD for the benefit of the disciples. But it goes deeper! Notice the beginning of v. 14. JESUS tells them what you have seen in the people's blindness is a fulfillment of prophecy. JESUS is telling them then and us now that what we see broken in the human race was known by the LORD b/4 we ever knew it! JESUS is teaching them to trust HIM, HIS GOD and the written WORD all together.

So there are four witnesses here for our assurance. The Living WORD JESUS has spoken. The written WORD has been referred to and declared. The Living WORD has hidden the written WORD in HIS heart. They agree with one another. And GOD has spoken the WORD to Isaiah that became the written WORD for the entire world to see and

hear! In other words, JESUS is telling the disciples there are at least four witnesses against the sin destroying these people. Actually there are 7 witnesses but the first four are enough for JESUS declaration. HOLY SPIRIT makes #5, He was there in the midst of what the Father told Isaiah. Isaiah makes #6 for he went and testified to what he saw. #7 is the faithful adherent of Judaism that would have been familiar with the book of Isaiah and could discern what was happening in the ministry of JESUS.

Looking back at the statement made earlier we learn these verses tell us the redeemed should have the ability to see, hear, consider, comprehend and benefit or advance into the kingdom further b/c of these abilities. To further clarify where JESUS is going in these 3 verses consider what He says can be actuated in the person who deeply listens to His teaching. Look at v. 15. First, they can see, second they can hear, third they can comprehend and apply through turning to GOD or actually repenting of their sin and error. Connect this now to the condition and description the LORD gives to the heart of mankind. Looking still at v. 15, "For this people's HEART has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them." To further comprehend the depths of this verse add to it the following amplified commentary. "For this people's HEART (the center of their being and character) (not their physical heart organ) has become calloused; (in the spirit realm that only can be seen in the spirit) they hardly hear with their ears (not physical ears) and they have closed their eyes (not physical eyes). Otherwise (this is what I want to do and see happen) they might see with their eyes, (the eyes of their heart, their spirit being) hear with their ears, (the ears of their heart, their spirit being) understand with their hearts (the mind of the heart) and turn (repent and turn to me, face to face, heart to heart, spirit to spirit running to me not from me) and then I would heal them. (For what needs healing is the spirit person first and then this will be obvious in their actions in the natural).

JESUS then goes on to tell them, "But blessed are your eyes (the eyes of the spirit!) because they see (I have opened them) and your ears (the ears of the spirit!) because they hear. (I have opened them) This is where we learn to describe what is meant to have eyes and ears of the spirit or in the spirit. Back to v. 13, the people see and hear with their physical abilities but they seldom see, hear or comprehend with spirit abilities if they have any. V. 14 then describes they cannot process/convert what's said in the physical to what's meant in the spirit. V. 15 reveals a callous has developed blocking this process. In v. 16 JESUS declares our blessed state to listen & reason beyond our physical & natural abilities advancing to hearing & seeing in the spirit!

It is interesting to compare the words of JESUS in M. 13:14&15 to exactly what is stated by the prophet Isaiah in Isaiah chapter 6. The wording is different. This is intentional as it reveals several actions of the GOD-head that have "come to pass" since the LORD first stated these words to the prophet Isaiah some 750 years before JESUS is referring to them again. The fact is JESUS is not repeating these words 750 years later. JESUS is revealing the counsel of the GOD-head to the prophet Isaiah has come to pass. Isaiah is looking at the counsel of GOD before it has happened and JESUS is looking at the counsel of GOD after it has happened. This helps to explain the difference in what Isaiah is told to say and what JESUS then states 750 years later. There is so much more at stake in the proclamation of the Kingdom and in what we pray than in what we often understand. When we pray, we virtually always pray about the situation from our perspective related almost exclusively to our time and setting. We seldom consider what the LORD knows about our prayer requests related to Heaven's side of the story and eternity. The Father sees behind, ahead and on the other side of reality when considering our prayer requests. We often do not consider this. It's not a contradiction. It's a fulfillment of the LORD's knowledge of HIS own counsel.

As we comprehend these secrets to the Kingdom then we can thank GOD regularly for their benefit and we then use these gifts in prayer for those who are not hearing and seeing in the spirit realm yet. In conclusion tonight, apply and consider the following reality about truth as it is shared. JESUS is teaching that He is speaking by the Spirit into the existence of the spirit realm. The problem is there are many who are dead in spirit and therefore except for the mercy of GOD reaching out to the dead in spirit no one could hear Him in the depth of their heart or their deepest unseen being. This is why persons often hear different messages from the same thing stated by a believer! They hear different messages because some hear in the Spirit and others do not. If one is left to their own to hear the truth they are likely to miss the truth since Satan can steal the Word sown into dead and/or immature hearts. The major point of the parable of the sower is to describe the heart condition that prohibits people from becoming the “otherwise believers”.