

Open Line Bible Study Lesson Fifteen April 24, 2018

Scripture Texts: Matthew 13:1-23, Mark 4:1-10, Luke 8:4-15

Tonight's subject "The Promise" to "The Meaning"

For some clarification about where we are at in this process: If you look at p. 2 of the lesson 6 review from March 27th review, you will find a summary of what was intended to be done in this Bible Study. There are 5 parts of the Study. Right now, we are working on the third point. We've partially addressed the 3rd, 4th & 5th point. The first two haven't been addressed. We will continue addressing the KEY ISSUES in the story now. We are at verses 15 to 18 of M 13 now. The Matthew text is my main basis.

Verses 13 to 15 have often stayed a mystery to most Disciples. The reasons are many. To summarize them, first, application is necessary. Second, hunger for truth is always a prerequisite. Third, advancement comes in correlation with the FATHER's seasons in our life. Fourth, there is too little teaching emphasis on these truths in the local church. Fifth, most Disciples receive these gifts from the LORD and learn to use them but fail to connect their use and existence to these verses. Sixth, the adversary is hard at work to keep us from revelation and application of these truths. Seven, too many intercessor's do not pray over these verses asking the LORD to open up the ears and eyes of others in the body of Christ. Eight, related to point three, besides the seasons of our life, the FATHER has seasons in the Kingdom that IF YOU ARE NOT IN THAT SEASON, you will not see particular truths no matter what you ask. This is challenging for some Disciples to come to terms with. Look at v. 17 for clarification. Nine, the progress of these verses is an explanation of one way the LORD works in HIS kingdom. Look at v. 13. ANYTIME, THE LORD explains the mysteries of His work, due to the power of original sin and Satan's work we will be challenged to understand this struggle and the secrets of the Kingdom the FATHER longs to show us in the right season. Ten, the progress of the verses is prophetic. It is what the FATHER stated would happen. So, if the LORD stated it would happen, it then must happen in the LORD's timing. We must find the submission to cooperate with GOD's prophetic timeline. How hard this is to do! Remember, we have covered this. The deeper and more significant the truth is from Heaven, the more the adversary resists it and the longer or challenging it is for us to step into it.

Look at M 13:15. Let us see the three fold responsibility of who did what to whom in this verse. The point is this. Too often, we miss the deeper truths here and the LORD is held responsible for the lack of attention persons have toward HIM as if HE wanted it that way. NOT SO! Look closely. V. 15 remind us the LORD allows us to reap what we sow. This is HIS first part & influence in the verse. So, the LORD allows the process of corruption to take place when persons disobey HIM. There is always a price to sin and original sin which is the effect of sin.

Satan's hand is seen in reference to the callous. The callous represents the hard heart. We know the devil is present where there is hardness! His character is hard! He is a slave driver who hardens anything he can influence in his destruction. Obedience to truth leads to the softening of the heart. Disobedience to truth leads to the hardening of the heart. The statement, "they hardly hear with their ears" suggests several things we must consider. The callous presence leads to this. This hardness covers the ears. It is completely possible there is a demonic assignment over persons who have their ears covered over by a spirit that deafens them to Kingdom gospel truth. The intercessor must learn to pray against this attack and work of the adversary otherwise it largely goes unrestrained. Notice the statement, "they hardly hear"! By the grace of GOD they are allowed to at least somewhat hear that JESUS loves them! So, we now see the first part of the LORD's influence. We see the devil at work in the callous and the deafened ears. NOW, LOOK at the statement, "and THEY have closed their eyes". Who closed their eyes? The persons in disobedience did! They played a part in this tragedy! They set their will making a decision to not do the right thing. Ultimately, they came into agreement with the enemy of GOD. None of us can totally blame Satan much less say this is GOD's will. No, it was the will of persons who would not submit to JESUS. So, we begin to see the part played by the human being in this. They have a part and are responsible for their decision and sin. BUT GOD will have the last say and laugh! Let us become the OTHERWISE PERSON! What the LORD wants is the OTHERWISE CREATION. The LORD wants us to see, hear, understand and repent and be healed by HIS intervention! So the LORD has the last say in this process. HE allows the process to exist and develop. But He desires to see His creation healed. JESUS states in v. 16 HE has intervened and has stopped this madness if only anyone would listen and respond to HIM. Please see the three fold influence of GOD, Satan, and person and the process in v. 15 and the LORD's intervention in v.16.

Notice the emphasis on the possessive pronoun "your" in the 16th verse. I am not much on grammatical construction work but I bring this to our attention b/c we need to ask the question are we possessive of what the LORD has offered to us? How are YOUR eyes? How are YOUR ears? Jesus describes the Disciples eyes and ears as being blessed. Here are several truths to further consider. First, after Jesus gives emphasis to what is out of order with others the Disciples could have become so focused on this they missed looking at their situation. Second, what is your focus and who is your mentor? The Disciples were fore runners and had no one to turn to in learning from but JESUS. If they made the mistake of not seeing this they could over focus on the issues in others and under focus on what they had been blessed with. Third, as we all are prone to do, they had to focus on what Jesus was doing instead of looking at what they had been. GOD's new paths in us are always challenged by our tendency to see old paths, ways, past experiences and our weaknesses and strengths. The New work is what matters most! Fourth, in general the past can become an enemy to the present state GOD has for us. We must learn to hear the LORD say, "But blessed are your eyes and your ears"!

What can we expect from the LORD about this? If we are not careful, we will accept Satan's lies that there are some who can have spiritual eyes and ears and others who cannot and for some self-imposed discrimination and condemnation of our own making, we must be one of those who weren't blessed by Jesus in this area. THIS IS DECEPTION! The New Testament does not teach that blessed open eyes and ears belong only to certain Disciples, or the greatest or the Five Fold Ministers in the body of Christ! NO, blessed open eyes and ears are given to all those whom will walk with Christ in faith relationship. WE ARE ALL INCLUDED!!!! In trust and faith, accept the 16th verse as being for you too. It is! Refuse to accept anything less. The way you will know you are included in this gift is what is stated in the story line. If in any capacity you have believed that you are somehow a 2nd class citizen in the Kingdom then the adversary will use this against you! He is a 1st class thief. Such notions are not true. The evidence begins to flow in your walk with Christ as you accept these gifts. You will begin to see and hear into the realm of the spirit. Often this starts as a slow stream in our lives or it may seem insignificant or senseless or foolish. It may start as a revelation to the heart. It is new knowledge about truth you can apply to your situation. So the eyes and ears see and hear into the Kingdom and see and hear into your being where your blind spots are made known to you. They are removed by Holy Spirit's work in you. Eventually, your eyes and ears are opened to actually see into the spirit realm. This happens as the LORD needs it to for your benefit and learning and information. BUT, it will happen as you walk with Jesus and trust Him. You must hear Jesus state this verse to your heart and spirit. Expect, receive & learn to walk in it. We will end tonight in prayer about this.

Verse 17 reveals that wanting this gift alone was not the lone prerequisite for having your eyes and ears opened in the spirit. Read the verse. Additionally, your call or your faithfulness did not make it possible either. There were prophets and righteous men who "longed to see" the deeper truths but they did not hear it. Jesus implies they were obedient and sincerely wanted to know the deeper truths of the LORD's work and purpose but this did not allow them access. You see, the time of the FATHER's season had not yet happened! This goes back to point #8 on the 1st page. But we have reached that season, the door is opened, we have access to the realm of revelation and the spirit realm like never before. Then, as we approach each new work of GOD and the return of Christ our opportunities are increased! The earthly and spirit realm are colliding into one another as never before. Do you recognize it, see it hear it and receive it?