

Open Line Bible Study Lesson Fourteen March 13, 2018

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

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

Now that we have given more consideration than the norm to the question the disciples asked JESUS and we have broadened our knowledge about the reality that we speak in parables when we share the gospel and the Kingdom we must take this knowledge and use it to our benefit in praying for those who are not where they should be in Christ. Now, that works both ways. This helps us to know how to help those who want help and this helps us to know when to walk away from those who really aren't F.A.T. They are not faithful, available or teachable.

Let's look further at M13:13 to 13:15. What do you see repeated in these verses? These verses keep telling us that persons should have the ability to see, hear, consider, comprehend and benefit or advance into the kingdom further b/c of those abilities. These verses remain lost to too many believers. Let's break them down. 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. Some believe this isn't correct but JESUS defeated the adversary the same way we can through obedience and submission to HIS heavenly Father. So 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. JESUS is telling them and us, you'll be more stable and think with GOD's wisdom when you realize GOD is not shocked at this and GOD included you in His proving to you His Word is reliable and trustworthy in all situations.

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. Beloved, this is truth I didn't see myself for years. Let that reality get deep inside your heart!

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. So, Isaiah is looking at the counsel of GOD before it has happened and JESUS is looking at the counsel of GOD to the prophet Isaiah after the work of GOD contained in the words has happened. In brevity, 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. Therefore do not let the change of wording from the LORD to Isaiah and what JESUS then states about that discourse concern you. 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”.