

What Jesus Taught

Preface

This document is a study on the teachings of Jesus. This was all the church had until the letters started to be written to churches. The letters were written to give various advice on Christian matters and they begin with James and Galatians which deals with teachers who erroneously implied you had to meet some of the requirements of The Jewish Law to be saved and that faith would express itself in action.

Timothy and Titus were written to give advice to young ministers on church activities. However some of the things mentioned were not taught by Jesus as they are not in the Didache and also because many scholars believe they were not written by Paul (an apostle) but by people using His name.

Hebrews was written to show the superiority of the priesthood of Christ over that of the High Priest in the temple.

Romans was written to state clearly the Gospel and Ephesians was written to show the superiority of Jesus over Artemis who was supposed to have many attributes similar to Jesus.

In this book I will examine the life of Jesus historically to see how His teaching and circumstances differed as the ministry progressed. One of the benefits of doing it this way is that you are able to see the progression of God in His training of the twelve.

It will also show what Jesus taught and what is additionally taught in the epistles which were not shown in the gospels.

This approach gives a clearer outline of the progression of teaching Jesus gave His disciples and apostles.

The Father's Business

Luke 2:41-50 The Visitation to the temples

How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be in my Father's house? And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.

The first thing about Jesus was that His focus was on what His Heavenly Father had sent Him to do. The work of the Father, which is what Jesus taught, should be our focus.

The anointing for Ministry Luke 3:21-22

Luk 3:21 Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened,

Luk 3:22 And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

Like every ministry you need the anointing (appointment) by God to that ministry. Jesus was baptised (anointed/appointed) then He started His ministry.

The Temptations of Jesus in The Wilderness

You need to show you are ready for ministry before God will allow you to start ministering.

So Jesus was allowed to be tested by Satan to prove that He was ready for ministry. Temptations are really tests that God allows to happen to us to show Satan we are ready for what God calls us to.

There were three temptations:

To try and meet His own need and not trust God for them which meant He was in charge of His life and not God.

To worship Satan instead of God which means he would sin so could not redeem us
To test God's Love to show there was not full faith in God's Love for Jesus so that Jesus did not really fully trust God in all His circumstances.

The Calling of His 12 disciples

Jesus must have been doing the work of The Messiah and demonstrating the miracles the Messiah would do

The First recorded Miracle of Jesus at the marriage feast of Cana Jn 2:1-11

And when the wine failed, the mother

*4 of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine. And Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet
5 come.*

It was not yet time for Jesus to begin His ministry demonstrating by miracles that He was The Messiah. But obedience and respect to parents is so important at any age that The Father allowed Jesus to begin His ministry by obeying His Mother.

If He could not obey His mother that He could see, how could He obey His heavenly Father that He could not see?

The cleansing of the Temple Jn ch 2

Just like modern churches, the Temple had been polluted by commercialism. Jesus removed the commercialism so that the focus of people was God and not the preparation needed to make offerings. In other words nothing should be there to remove their focus on God.

The interview of Nicodemus with Jesus John 2:23 to 3:21

Jesus came to teach and demonstrate The Kingdom of God and tell us the attitudes a citizen of The Kingdom should have. This meant a change in attitudes from those the world has to those The Kingdom has. This change in attitude was described by Jesus as being born again so we have 2 Cor 5:17 (we are a new person when we become a Christian) and God changes us (Titus 3:5).

Jesus had been teaching this but people did not realise the need for a change in the way they thought about God, their relationship to Him and the new attitudes they needed to be a citizen of The Kingdom of God (which is what a follower of Jesus is).

Nicodemus did not realise Jesus was the Messiah and called Him an earthly title given to leading teachers of The Bible.

Nicodemus had not realised that Jesus always taught from the spiritual perspective of a matter and thought Jesus was saying you need to be physically born again which is why he was perplexed by this statement of Jesus.

Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be

*born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of
6 God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is
7 born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye*

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,

that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have

17 eternal life. For God sent not the Son into the world to judge the

18 world; but that the world should be saved through him.

Having recorded the first recorded Miracle of Jesus which was to do with obedience to His Father Jesus then recorded as giving two important principles:

Flesh and blood (earthly attitudes) cannot enter The Kingdom of Heaven

He came to save people from hell and not to condemn them to it.

The Samaritan woman Jacob's Well and in Sychar (Samaria) John 4:5-42

The Bible having recorded why Jesus came now shows His Salvation was for all mankind and not just the Jews by recording His talking to the gentile woman about what He was teaching. Her response was to call fellow Samaritans to hear Jesus.

She would have been considered a great sinner and someone no respectable Rabbi would have even spoken too.

Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither. The

*17 woman answered and said unto him, I have no husband. Jesus saith
18 unto her, Thou saidst well, I have no husband: for thou hast had
five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband:*

Firstly she was a Samaritan that Jews considered not pure Jews so did not relate to them
Secondly she was cursed by God because so many of her husbands had died
Thirdly she was 'living in sin' with a man who was not her husband
Fourthly she was a woman.

This is why the disciples were amazed He was speaking to a woman and a Samaritan woman at that.

27 And upon this came his disciples; and they marvelled that he was speaking with a woman; (and a Samaritan one as well).

The Bible now records His teaching having laid down a foundation:

To enter The Kingdom you need to change the way you think about God

Jesus came to save and not condemn

His Salvation was for all and not just Jews.

He treated men and women equally and not just taught men.

He shows a principle in regards to ministry that you just be guided by The Holy Spirit where you are to minister or be guided by the requirements of denominations or churches. The Bible says:

Luk 4:14 And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about.

Luk 4:15 And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all.

He had The Authority (power) of The Holy Spirit because He was doing what God required of Him or The Spirit would not have backed up His Ministry.

The healing at Cana of the son of a courtier of Capernaum John 4:46-54

Having done miracles and teaching to the Jew, then the Samaritans He now does these to a gentile of the court of Herod and by this completes demonstrating His teachings were for all.

Now He went back to His home city and declared He was The Messiah fulfilling the requirement to begin ministry where you are at and then expand it from there (Acts 1:8).

In the synagogue of Nazareth He read the scripture that identified The Messiah and related it to Him and by his further detailing His purpose on earth:

*18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
Because he anointed me to preach [4]good tidings to the poor:
He hath sent me to proclaim release to the captives,
And recovering of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty them that are bruised,
19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord [_see Isa. 58:6;
61:1-2_].*

The Teaching begins

Having demonstrated He was The Messiah by what He did when He ministered and openly declaring this in His home town He now begins ministering in the area around it as required by Acts 1:8 and selects a group of 12 men he will train who He will send out to train others (in accordance with the principle in 2 Tim 2:2).

He teaches these 12 men about The Kingdom of God and its requirements of them as well as what to teach others about it.

He states the purposes of The Messiah when He declared Himself to be Him in the synagogue of Nazareth (remember Jesus always spoke about spiritual things pertaining to The Kingdom of God):

*18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, (He was appointed by God for this role)
Because he anointed me to preach (for the following purposes)
good tidings to the poor: (to tell the spiritually poor the salvation relationship God has for them)
He hath sent me to proclaim release to the captives, (Declare they can be free from Satan and his influence on them)
And recovering of sight to the blind, (To give the spiritual truths the spiritually blind have)
To set at liberty them that are bruised, (to free people from the results of Satan's attacks on them)*

19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord (to declare The Kingdom had Come and they were acceptable to God to enter it as they were).

He set up His base at Capernium which was a centre for gentiles and not Jews. Here the Jewish leaders did not have the influence to hinder or stop His ministry and teaching.

Notice that He did not call 12 from Jerusalem but from the countryside out of the influence and control of the Jewish leaders.

Jesus said He has been sent to:

Luke 4:23 I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent.

Then it is said of Him?

Mat 4:23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

Jesus was sent to preach the Gospel of The Kingdom so any denomination, church or person not doing this is not following Jesus.

He was sent to those that did not know about the Kingdom of God to call them to repent (Change their lifestyle). Ministers in churches preach to those who are not sick and do not go outside their church so do not follow Jesus.

Luk 5:31 And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick.

Luk 5:32 I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Jesus heals on The Sabbath

There are recorded next three occasions when Jesus heals on the Sabbath and causes the legalistic Jews to condemn Him. He asks if it is right to do good on the Sabbath. In other words God's Love is not limited by the confines of man so that the legalism of the Sabbath observance is against the Love of God which is behind all The Law.

After a night of prayer, Jesus selects twelve apostles mark 3:13-19

Jesus now shows the importance of prayer when decisions need to be made, not necessarily prayer about what you are deciding but prayer to draw your focus on God so you can clearly hear what you need to do.

He prays then chooses the 12 who He is to train.

He then teaches them about The attitudes expected of a citizen of The Kingdom of God,

The Sermon on The Mount, Matthew, chapters 5-7

Jesus only ever taught about The Kingdom of God and its requirements of us and how these were to be expressed to those around us. These needed to be learned by His disciples so the first thing recorded after He chooses them is His introductory instructions to them about their relationship to The Kingdom of God and its requirements of them. He begins with a list of blessings that they will receive from God if they do certain things:

Mat 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Webster's dictionary defines poor as:

POOR, a. [L. pauper.] Wholly destitute of property, or not having property sufficient for a comfortable subsistence; It is often synonymous with indigent, and with necessitous, denoting extreme want; it is also applied to persons who are not entirely destitute of property, but are not rich; as a poor man or woman; poor people

So the first attitude mentioned is to not to concentrate on what the world offers but on what is necessary for The Kingdom of God which is why this attitude results in going to heaven when they die as their life's focus is The Kingdom and its purposes (Matt 6:33)

4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Webster's dictionary defines mourn as:

MOURN, v.i. [L. maereo.] To express grief or sorrow; to grieve; to be sorrowful. Mourning may be expressed by weeping or audible sounds, or by sobs, sighs or inward silent grief.

It cannot be sadness over the things of the world they have lost as they have rejected them. It has to be for the Kingdom. They grieve over it not being known by people and their need to know about it. It is part of their focus on The Kingdom and their desire for people to know about it.

Mat 5:5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

MEEK. Mild of temper; soft; gentle; not easily provoked or irritated; yielding; given to forbearance under injuries.

These people have great self control and discipline so are able to focus on their work for The Kingdom and are not sidetracked by sensationalism or emotion, things Satan uses in churches to distract them from God's purposes for them.

Mat 5:6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

The desire of these people is to know about as much of The Kingdom as they can so they can promote it to the best of their ability and so they are always in a correct relationship with God.

Mat 5:7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

MERCIFUL, a. [from mercy.] Having or exercising mercy; compassionate; tender; disposed to pity offenders and to forgive their offenses; unwilling to punish for injuries; applied appropriately to the Supreme being.

They express the same quality of love to others that God expresses to them.

Mat 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

There is nothing in their heart that belongs to earthly ways. It is free from the defilement Satan seeks to place in them through the world around them. In a sense it is the state of holiness with the attitudes necessary to maintain this state.

Mat 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Jesus came to earth to make peace between God and mankind. These people pursue this and it is done through evangelism which reconciles man to God if accepted and makes peace between them.

Mat 5:10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

They are willing to suffer to maintain their relationship with God or to help others maintain this relationship.

Mat 5:11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

They are willing to suffer unjustly for the purposes of The Kingdom.

Mat 5:12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

The fact you are persecuted like many great people of The Kingdom shows you belong to The Kingdom.

In summary:

Their focus is on The Kingdom and maintaining their relationship with God as its citizen

The express the attitudes of a Citizen of The Kingdom (God's Quality of Love)

They promote The Kingdom regardless of the cost to them

They desire all to belong to The Kingdom and obtain the same benefits (blessings) they have.

If they live like this they will be the 'salt of the earth' says Jesus.

Salt flavours something giving it life so that it is worth having. So the Citizen of The Kingdom of God flavours the world with the example of their life and shows that following Jesus is worth doing. By their life they demonstrate The Kingdom of God.

Next He likens them to a light that they should not hide by not living as they should. Their lives should be an example to all around them to show how they should live.

They are to do the work of The Kingdom.

Matt 5:16 Even so let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Their lives should be such that people of the world will see that it is different to theirs and it will bring Glory to God by what they do by living as He requires them to and showing by this that He is worthy of Praise and Glory.

Jesus explains He is not making new laws but is building on the old laws - The Torah

17 Think not that I came to destroy the law or the prophets: I came

18 not to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till

heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise

19 pass away from the law, till all things be accomplished. Whosoever

The Mosaic Law was not removed by Jesus and He used its principles of God's Love being behind it as the basis for the new attitudes a citizen of The Kingdom of God required. He said:

Joh 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

Joh 13:35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

There was no leeway for mercy in the punishments of The Law. Jesus was saying this was no excuse for not forgiving anyone who has offended us hence:

Mat 6:14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

Mat 6:15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Jesus the talks about our attitudes to things are more important than actions and the need to forgive others (Mat 5:21-29) if you wanted to approach God.

He also says you need to admit your faults or you will have worse following you because you will not deal with things unless you admit you have them.

He uses two illustrations to show our attitudes are more important than actions; a murderer and an adulterer.

If anything was causing you to sin you needed to remove it or it will have you end up in hell (Mat 5:3132).

Divorce

Jesus next talks of divorce

It was said also, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement but I say unto you, that every one that putteth away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, maketh her an adulteress: and whosoever shall marry her when she is put away committeth adultery.[a]

To understand this you need to look at it from a spiritual perspective.

When a husband and wife have sex their souls are united.

1Co 6:16 What? know ye not that he which is joined to a harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.

So when one commits adultery their souls are also united and demons transfer between them. The adulterous partner now has demons in their soul which will pass to their spouse. To stop this happening they can be divorced. If they are reconciled the adulterous partner needs deliverance to remove the demons they picked up in their adultery.

Jesus then said that divorce was not originally in God's plan for marriage.

Mat 19:8 He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.

In the garden Adam and Eve would have married for eternity but the fall ruined that and for the safety of the woman she could be divorced by a husband that has hardened his heart towards her.

The swearing that something is true or correct

Whenever a person swears or something or makes a path they are declaring that what they say is true, A Christian should not need to do that except in a court of law there it is used as evidence. This is why Jesus says:

Mat 5:37 But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.

Then we have this section:

38 Ye have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth

39 for a tooth [_see Ex. 21:24; Lev. 24:20; Deut. 19:21 _]: but I say

unto you, Resist not [11]him that is evil: but whosoever smiteth

thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also [_see John

40 18:23 _]. And if any man would go to law with thee, and take away

41 the coat, let him have thy cloak also. And whosoever shall

42 [12]compel thee to go one mile, go with him twain. Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.

John Gill says this about v39:

But I say unto you, that ye resist not evil,... This is not to be understood of any sort of evil, not of the evil of sin, of bad actions, and false doctrines, which are to be opposed; nor of the evil one, Satan, who is to be resisted; but of an evil man, an injurious one, who has done us an injury. We must not render evil for evil, or repay him in the same way; see Jas_5:6. Not but that a man may lawfully defend himself, and endeavour to secure himself from injuries; and may appear to the civil magistrate for redress of grievances; but he is not to make use of private revenge. As if a man should pluck out one of his eyes, he must not in revenge pluck out one of his; or should he strike out one of his teeth, he must not use him in the same manner; but patiently bear the affront, or seek for satisfaction in another way.

Behind these admonitions is self-preservation. Give them what they want than have them take it from you and abuse you in the process then seek redress under the Law. It is not giving into evil but giving to avoid evil happening to you.

Mat 5:43 You have heard that it was said, "Show kindness to your neighbour and hate your enemy."

Mat 5:44 But I say to you, love your enemies and bless the one who curses you, and do what is beautiful to the one who hates you, and pray over those who take you by force and persecute you.

Mat 5:45 So that you will become the children of your Father who is in Heaven, for his sun rises on the good and upon the evil and his rain descends on the just and on the unjust.

Mat 5:46 For if you love those who love you, what benefit is it to you? Behold, do not even the Tax Collectors the same thing?

Here Jesus hints at the new standard of Love His followers are expected to have. They are to treat people in the way The Heavenly Father Loves and treats them.

Matt 6

v 1 Take heed that ye do not your righteousness before men, to be seen of them: else ye have no reward with your Father which is in heaven.

Jesus states an important principle. Do you do something to be notice by men or are you only concerned with God seeing it so that it does not matter what reward you obtain for doing the thing.

Jesus has told people of many ministers who had their reward on earth through men praising them and went to heaven and had nothing living in what one person described as a 'chicken coop'.

Prayer is asking God for your needs. Jesus says He knows thee so you do not need to ask more than once as it does not affect the outcome of The Prayer because the Will of God will be done n matter how often you pray.

He then gives them The Lord' prayer which is a prayer for The Kingdom to be in your life as well as a praise to The Father.

It I to be noted that after Calvary half of it is redundant so that when these are taken out the prayer becomes just one of praise to The Father.

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come for thine is the Kingdom, The Power and The Glory, Amen.

This is what prayer really is:

It is to The Father who provides all we have

For His Glory

For the purposes of His Kingdom

Believing we do not need to ask anything for ourselves because of His Love for us.

People mistake the telling of our personal emotional needs for prayer. He is our loving Father who loves you to share your heart and hurts with Him so tell Him what troubles you but do not ask Him to meet these needs unless you know it is His Will.

Jesus then warns them that they are to forgive others as they have been forgiven. God is not a hypocrite to allow in to heaven someone who will not forgive another when they have been forgiven by God themselves. In hell Jesus showed many who lived a good Christian life but were there because of unforgiveness. Jesus was not the Lord of their life but only a part of it and they had accepted Satan's values of unforgiveness so went to his kingdom when they died being ineligible to enter heaven because of the sin of unforgiveness.

Jesus needs to be Lord of all your life not just the parts you want to give Him.

Remember that this sermon is on the attitudes a citizen of The Kingdom of God should have so all must be looked at in the light of this as should the rest of the teachings of Jesus as His focus in all His teaching was our response and relationship to The Kingdom of God.

This is why He states that our objectives should be focused on those of heaven where our citizenship is and where all we have there can never be lost or destroyed unlike all we obtain on earth. This means all we do should be examined in the light of the purposes of heaven and not those of man.

He then talks about single purposefulness using the eye. Why does He use the eye? Because it is our major input and according to its focus will be what we input and accept and what we will look for with them.

You cannot concentrate wholly on two things at the same time. You cannot serve God yet chase the things of the world of Satan.

People worry about their security in life so go into the world and work hard to maintain it. They do not trust The Father in heaven to provide their needs but listen to Satan and all the things he tells them they need but really do not. That is why we are told to seek the Will of God and the purposes of His Kingdom (Mat 6:33) and like a good King He will provide all we need to live and do His Work.

We have enough problems to deal with without going into the world and getting more from doing things God does not need or ask us to do.

Judgement

Jesus then tells them not to judge others because they do the same sins themselves and so are not in a position to judge them. Only God can judge as He alone is sinless.

They are also advised not to give the truth to people who will ridicule it.

Jesus then says:

Matt:7-9 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: for every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

People say that this refers to prayer. Well it does but as Jesus is talking about The Kingdom this passage refers to prayers for the purposes of The Kingdom. What King would not answer prayers for His Kingdom. But prayer for our own desires may not be His Will so He will not answer them.

Jesus then quotes the Law of Love which does not judge people but only does what is best for another. Here it talks about the love men have but when Jesus calls it a new commandment He talks about God's quality of Love.

Jesus then advises them not to take the easy way out but to discipline themselves to do His Will.

They need to be careful whom they let teach them as many profess to be Christians but are not and will teach them error or do things for the wrong reasons. This is why Jesus will say to them that they do not belong to His Kingdom because they were not serving Him when they were doing things in His Name.

He also states that you will know them by their lifestyle and its effects on other people.

People who follow Jesus will have His truths as a foundation to counteract the storms of life otherwise they will go under and be overcome by what Satan throws at them.

Jesus then shows He is not a false teacher by the miracles he has done and by His ministry. When John the Baptist sent his disciples to ask Jesus if He was the Messiah Jesus replied as follows:

Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see:

Mat 11:5 The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

A city is punished for the evil it does not repent of Matt. 11:20-30

Jesus declared some cities that did not repent of their evil would be punished severely for their sins. Elsewhere we find nations are also similarly punished. Jesus must punish people because of His principle of reaping that you sow (Gal 6:7-8).

After the tribulation is over and the Millennium is about to start it will be seen that many sinful cities, including many capital cities that opposed Israel and/or supported lifestyles that The Bible rejects and condemns, will no longer be on earth but submerged.

True rest from the world's problems Matt 11:29

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke[a] upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light

Jesus has been talking about chasing our worldly needs and says that if seek His Kingdom and His purposes we will not need to search for our needs. So it cannot refer to that.

In this passage He is talking about the rest you have in a relationship with Jesus so that you can give Him all your cares and do not worry about what happens because you trust Him and He is in charge of all that happens to you. But it requires repentance from your former lifestyle to the lifestyle Jesus requires you to live as a citizen of His Kingdom.

Second trip

Having plainly taught the principles of The Kingdom He now uses parables and reveals their meaning to His disciples only. The question arises as to what He is teaching in these parables and how is it different to what He was teaching earlier.

Many of the parables deal with attitudes to The Kingdom. The disciples had been given the knowledge now Jesus was working on their attitudes to The Kingdom and His role as The Messiah - its representative.

The parables were used so that those outside The kingdom of God would not know their meaning. In a sense He was not casting pearls before swine.

The Parable of The Sower

This parable shows there are three types of people:

Those that reject the teachings of Jesus

Those that accept them but fall away as their attitude is not whole hearted towards the

Those that retain them as the basis of their life because they wholeheartedly embrace them.

Having taught them about The Kingdom and shown He was the Messiah by His Ministry Jesus was asking them what their attitude was towards Him and His teachings and was showing them what it needed to be.

He then told them that they had to declare the truths of The Kingdom to all like a light shining in the darkness in the ignorance of The Kingdom around them.

He then states a principle. The more you tell others about The Kingdom the more God can teach you about it.

what measure ye mete it shall be measured unto you and the more shall be given unto you.

Parable of the Seed Growing of Itself Mark 4:26-29

It was not something they could teach themselves as God had to give them understanding of it. It would grow in them like a seed grows guided by God and under His control. All they had to do was respond and embrace what they were taught about The Kingdom.

Parable of the Tares Matt. 13:24-30

Satan would try and corrupt the teachings of The Kingdom but by the fruit of the teaching would be known its source. While the incorrect teaching was given it could be difficult to tell it from the truth but the results of the erroneous teaching would be seen in its fruit – in how it obeyed the laws of The Kingdom of God.

It also refers to the people in the world that exist with the Citizens of The Kingdom who will be judged and cast in to the lake of fire for their rejection of Jesus which will result in their destruction. It shows the results of the correct and wrong attitudes to Jesus.

(Parable of the Mustard Seed Mark 4:30-32)

It began with small faith but as that faith matured it would grow into something great for the purposes of The Kingdom.

Parable of the Leaven Mark 4:33-34

People say this parable relates to the effects of the church on the world. Jesus is talking about individuals and their attitudes so it must refer to individuals and as He is talking about a seed growing into a big tree He must be relating this to faith and the individual.

Just as a little yeast changes the bread by permeating all of it so a little faith will change the person by permeating all they do. The correct attitudes of The Kingdom embraced will change the person into a mature follower of Jesus which means there is no sudden spirituality but it is a growth thing according to our embracing Jesus and His Truths.

Matt 13:44-46 The parables of the treasure and pearl of Great Price

According to how they value effort will be what they are willing to give up to get there.

The Parable of the Net Matt. 13:47-50

The people of the world are contained like fish in a net. The only way out is through death. When the world ends they will be sorted unto those of The Kingdom and those not of The Kingdom who will be cast unto eternal fire.

The Parable of the Householder Matt. 13:51-53

Every persons who proclaims The Kingdom is like a person who sets forth new and old things for people to learn from.

New because Jesus has shown them.

Old because the Law still applies so they need to know what of The Law still applies today.

Remember Jesus said He did not come to replace any of the law or to do away with any of it so that it still applies except for the food laws as they were given away by Jesus in Acts and those which have been fulfilled or made redundant so that they no longer need to be observed. This means the feasts of The Law still apply.

Jesus Heals The Gerasene[A] Demoniac Mark 5:1-20

Jesus has just stilled the tempest showing the disciples His power over Nature and now casts out demons showing His disciples His power over Satan and the supernatural.

He then shows His power over sickness Mark 5:21-43 by healing the daughter of Jairus and a woman who touched His garment.

It is interesting that a ruler of the synagogue came to Jesus to heal his daughter. He was not seen as a threat yet to established Jewry.

He then heals two blind men and casts out a demon that had been making a man dumb showing that demons can have a part in sickness.

After having done all this He was still rejected by those in His home town of Nazareth who could not believe He did all these miracles. But then it is said that a man's worst enemies are those of his own household and often the town (church) they go to.

Jesus sends out the disciples

Having taught His disciples about the requirements of The Kingdom ((and note how little is recorded of what He taught but what is given us must be the core of the teachings if Jesus), and having shown them by His example the reality of The Kingdom of God Jesus now sends them out as its representatives.

After their return they are now called Apostles.

Note the following:

They were sent in pairs and not singly and were given the Authority to do the work of The Kingdom (Mark 6:7-10)

Mar 6:7 And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;

Mar 6:8 And commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse:

Mar 6:9 But be shod with sandals; and not put on two coats.

Mar 6:10 And he said unto them, In what place soever ye enter into a house, there abide till ye depart from that place.

They were to rely on God for their needs:

Mar 6:8 And commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse:

Mar 6:9 But be shod with sandals; and not put on two coats.

They would be persecuted like Jesus was but would be guided by The Holy Spirit when facing their persecutors.

They would be accused of working their miracles through the power of Satan which Satan hoped would discredit them and Jesus and stop people following Him.

They were to face persecution, even if it meant death or they would not be a follower of Jesus who was persecuted and was to die by the hand of His haters.

They would receive appropriate rewards for this service to Jesus. It is then recorded that they did the Miracles Jesus did.

After their experiences doing the work of The Kingdom Jesus gave more training in the form of a feedback session where they discussed what they had done.

He then illustrated the provision of The Father by feeding five thousand plus families with minimal supplies (five loaves and two fishes).

Jesus walks across the water to them and still the storm showing His authority over nature.

The purpose of Jesus was not to set up an earthly kingdom and he rejected the attempts of the people to do this. His objective was a spiritual one – The kingdom of God and nothing was going to divert Him from proclaiming and teaching it.

He also states what the work of God is:

What must we do, that we may work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom [3]he hath sent

The word for 'work' gives the idea of focusing primarily on what you are doing. In other words our focus should be on Jesus and doing what He said to do which is what we will do if we believe He is The Son of God.

One of the lessons the apostles would have learnt was how to deal with people who were against what you taught as they had many opportunities to see Jesus counteract the attacks of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

There is not much teaching by Jesus after this but one thing HE taught them was tradition was subservient to the needs of The Kingdom.

He taught it was what was in a man that defiled them and caused them to sin and nothing external could do that unless they accepted it.

He preached to gentiles and healed them showing that The Kingdom of God was not limited just to Jews but to every person regardless of race or religion. Healed the daughter, of a Phoenician woman whose daughter had a devil in her.

In telling His Apostles about taking up your cross He said that to take it up would gain everything they wanted but not taking it up would deprive them of these things and would stop them going to heaven (Matt 16:24-26)

He also told them that nothing on earth was worth having if it kept them from going to heaven.

Jesus showed them to pay to God his due (Matt. 17:24-27)

He also showed that God provide what they need to give to Him by having a fish give it to them.

The importance of children to God Matt. 17:24-27

The Father in heaven loves children and anyone who leads them astray will face His anger and wrath. Jesus also said that to get to heaven you needed the same attitudes a child has.

Offences caused to you (Mark 18:15 ff)

You are to go to the person of fending you first to sort it out. If they are not willing to do this then you find two or more witnesses and go before the assembly to sort it out. If they are still not interested in reconciliation or admitting their sin then cast them out of the assembly (The Kingdom) because they have not repented so are defiled and do not belong to The Kingdom of God.

He then stated that where two or more agree and it is in accordance with the Will of The Father it will be done.

Jess taught that everything we own must be given to Him and not controlled by us except as we are told to by The Bible or The Holy Spirit (Luke 9:57-62). This should be expected as all in The Kingdom is owned by The King and it should be used as He directs it to be used.

Glory

Jesus was in the temple teaching and the teachers of the Law said temple, and taught in Jn 7:15-19

How knoweth this man letters, having never learned? Jesus therefore answered them, and said, My teaching is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man willeth to do his will, he shall know of the teaching, whether it be of God, or _whether_ I speak from myself. He that speaketh from himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh the glory of him that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.

We are to teach what God has told us too and not what a denomination or minister says. What we teach should bring Glory to God. If it brings us glory then it is incorrect teaching and may even contain idolatry in it by focusing on us and not Jesus.

When we preach only Jesus should be seen.

We need to be guided by The Holy Spirit so we see things correctly. This means we do not argue, assume, reason react or promote our viewpoint but ask The Holy Spirit what to do (Jn 7:24)

Judge not according to appearance, but judge righteous judgement.

God has an appointed time for your death so that you should not complain about it but embrace it as it will soon be time for you to obtain all you lived for.

Jn7:30-31 They sought therefore to take him: and no man laid his hand on him, because his hour was not yet come.

Jesus shows that Gd's Mercy is greater than The law

Story of the adulteress brought to Jesus for judgement john 7:53 to 8:11 shows this. Under The Mosaic Law she should have been stoned to death. But Jesus showed mercy and her executioners left convicted of their sin and the punishment it deserved.

There is no room for legalism of any sort in the Love and Mercy God has for us.

Some principles of Ministry Jn 87:26-34

26 I have many things to speak and to judge concerning you: howbeit he that sent me is true; and the things which I heard from him, these speak I [3]unto the world. They perceived not that he spake to them of the Father. Jesus therefore said, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that [4]I am _he_, and _that_ I do nothing of myself, but as the Father taught me, I speak these things. And he that sent me is with me; he hath not left me alone; for I do always the things that are pleasing to him. As he spake these things, many believed on him.

We are only to do the Will of The Father and speak /teach what He tells us too through The Holy Spirit. Reason and rationalisation about these things has no place in the Christian life.

31 Jesus therefore said to those Jews which had believed him, If ye abide in my word, _then_ are ye truly my disciples; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

It is important to know what Jesus taught as that frees us from The Kingdom of Satan and enables us to live as Christ desires us to live.

Jesus illustrates the principle in 2 Tim 2:2. He had trained the twelve now He and the twelve trained 70 who were now ready to go out and do the work of Jesus (Luke 10:1-24)

The final days

Jesus is the supreme prophet and to show He had power over life and death and voluntarily died He raises Lazarus from the dead. He could have done this miracle any time but now was the appropriate time to do it so that people realised He went voluntarily to His death (Jn 11:1-11).

This was the trigger that started the Jewish leaders to plot His death out of fear of what would happen if Jesus lived much longer and caused Rome to fear a Jewish revolt.

Once again church politics overrides the Will of God.

Jesus is on His way to Jerusalem to die and gives His last teachings about The Kingdom of God (Luke 17:21)

The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: neither shall they say, Lo, here! or, There! for lo, the kingdom of God is within you.

Pray always Luke 18:1

I And he spake a parable unto them to the end that they ought always to pray, and not to faint;

People think this belongs to asking God for what we need but prayer has five types:

Praise, adoration, supplication, confession and thanksgiving.

SO all throughout the days as you walk in conversation to The Holy Spirit you will be mainly praying praise and worship.

We are not to faint (become discouraged) in doing these things and we are to continue in them regardless of the circumstances around us hindering us in this or implying it is not worth praying (which is the purpose of the parable of the importunate widow).

Jesus tells us that the attitudes we have in prayer are important and that humility is the one we should have as we are approaching God and compared to Him we are nothing and it is only because of His Love for us that we can approach Him (Luke 18:10-14).

He once again teaches on divorce showing how important marriage is to God that He does this a second time and by this provides the witnesses required by God to show how important it is (Mark 10:1-12). Even in the passage the disciples ask Jesus twice about it.

Mar 10:7-9 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

This is why divorce is so painful emotionally as the two are spiritually torn apart.

If God has placed a couple together then they cannot divorce. Unfortunately most marriages are not organised by God so He has not put them together but just allowed it so that man can break that apart. But even so If Jesus is Lord of each partner and the marriage, divorce will never happen as they will do what He says to make the marriage work.

We are to obey the government and give them what they ask of us if it does not contravene the law of God (Mark 12:13-17):

Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.

Caesar has been allowed by God to rule over you therefore He is to be obeyed unless he asks you to do something that contravenes the law of God and to disobey him is to disobey God and if not repented of can send you to hell. Examples are unrepented speeding or parking, not paying correct taxes. Avoid to obey regulations. Anything that breaks the laws of Caesar.

Once again Jesus states the summary of the Law and by this witnesses to it (Mark 12:30)

The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

Note they are based on God's quality of Love being shown in all you do.

Where you sit is not as important as who you are and do (Matt 12:38-40). Important people think they should have the best seats in the house but they are only important in their own eyes and the eyes of the world. Being honoured by man is not important but being where God wants you to be, no matter how lowly a seat it is.

SO when you go to church ask where you are to sit regardless of whether you are in a position of responsibility rather than sit where you think you should and not do what God wanted you to do.

Once again Jesus reinforces that the fact that God looks at attitudes and purposes for doing things and not the results. (Mark 12:41-44).

He gives the example of a widow who gives to the temple a very small gift but it is all she had to live on and a rich man who gives his petty cash to the temple. Men notice him but not the widow.

God says He notices the widow because in faith she gave all she had trusting God would provide her needs. The rich man gave what did not trouble his lifestyle so has his reward in the fact men would have noticed him doing it because there was no faith involved for God to reward.

He also spoke about a man who gave money to his servants and went away and came back and demanded what they did with the money. Only those that did what was correct were rewarded. In other words Jesus gives you things you need to use properly if you belong to Him: money, life, abilities, a relationship with Him. The Holy spirit etc..

Jesus warns what will happen in the end of days when He is to return and tells them (through the parable of the wise virgins Matt ch 25) that they should always live in readiness to be raptured because no one knows when it will happen and it could be in your next breath or step.

So every follower of Jesus should live as if the rapture will never come but live a holy life so that they are ready when it surprises them.

Jesus also told them that there was a day of judgement where all would have to give account of how they maintained their relationship with Him (through the correct expression of His quality of Love and holiness) and used what He gave them to be steward of.

Jealousy Luke 22:14-16, 24-30

God places people where He needs them so that one should not envy or be jealous of what another has as this says that you believe God has not dealt with you properly and not place you where you should be with the spiritual authority you should have. A true follower of Jesus is content in whatever state He has placed them in.

John 13:1-20 Having reprimanded them for desiring the most important positions Jesus states that really a person in charge is the servant of those they are in charge over and must do anything required to carry out this responsibility.

In a sense God is our servant as He carries out His correct stewardship of us.

Jesus also states that in reality in the spiritual realm all are equal;

He then does the lowliest Job to illustrate all this. He washed the feet of the disciples, a work normally done by the lowliest servants in the household.

Jesus then summarises the attitude we should have in serving each other:

Joh 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

Joh 13:35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Jesus then institutes the communion meal as a way to remember what He did for them as a result of Calvary. In the Didache it is treated as a thanksgiving meal for the redemption Jesus obtained for us and it is in this attitude that Jesus institutes it.

The Final Discourse

Jesus now talks about the role of The Holy spirit as well as what is prepared for them in heaven.

Jesus starts by telling that: *Joh 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

So that they can trust in what He says to them. That they can believe in Him and should not be troubled about what is to happen.

Whatever they ask for the purposes of The Kingdom and declare it in the Name of Jesus will be done. One sign it belongs to His Will is that it will glorify Him (v13)

Then Jesus promises to send them The Holy Spirit and tells them what the Holy Spirit's role is in their life. But they must keep the commandments of Jesus for The Holy Spirit to be a part of their life (v15).

He will always be with them as they do the work of The Kingdom of God

The Holy Spirit would be their most intimate relationship because His Presence was actually to be in them and not outside of them so that He would always be there to assist them.

Joh 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

They were to keep His commandments out of their love for Him and not out of legalism or fear of punishment. Jesus desires a love relationship with us and not one based on legalism and fear of punishment.

Joh 14:21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

The Holy Spirit would come when Jesus left the earth and would be sent by The Father to teach them and remind them what Jesus said. The Holy Spirit is a sign of The Father's Love for us.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Jesus is the source of everything to do with belief in Him and we must live in accordance with His Will. If you live according to His Will The Father Will help you mature in this Christian walk otherwise you will lose your relationship with Jesus. If we are in this relationship we will only ask Jesus for what is needed for His Purposes and He will always do what we ask.

To continue you in this relationship we need to live in accordance with the principles of Love that Jesus gave us.

Jesus then restates the supreme example of the Law of Love which He was about to do for them and all mankind.

Joh 15:12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

Joh 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

We show we love Jesus and are a friend of Jesus by the way we obey Him

Joh 15:14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

Because they belong to Jesus they will be hated by Satan and He will use his world system to persecute them and hinder their work.

Joh 15:18 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.

But The Holy Spirit is sent to help them testify to Jesus, His truths and what He did at Calvary. Because of this they will be able to do the same.

Joh 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

Joh 15:27 And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

It is the work of The Holy Spirit to convict them of their need of Jesus. Ours is only to tell them of Jesus and what He has done so The Holy Spirit can use it in them.

Joh 16:8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgement:

The Holy Spirit will teach them and tell them all they need to know to do the work of Jesus and will show them things to come so they will be prepared for them.

Joh 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

What The Holy Spirit does results in Glory to Jesus in any way and as we serve Jesus, if it does not bring Him and The Father Glory. then The Holy Spirit is not behind it which means it cannot be the Will of Jesus.

Joh 16:14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

Jesus has told us how He and The father Loves us and that He has sent The Holy Spirit to Help us because we will have trials in the world but He has overcome the enemy behind them so can we.

Joh 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Jesus had not given them the authority needed to do this at that time as He had not risen, defeating and so was not Lord of all. After His resurrection He was able too so that the last bit they needed -the delegation over Satan- was given to them.

John 17 The true Lord's Prayer

Jesus then gives an example of this Love in His prayer.

He does not pray for anything else for Himself but prays for all who would follow Him.

So what does Jesus pray for?

His prayer is only for those who follow Him:

Joh 17:9 I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.

He asks The Father to keep them and meet their needs How else is The Father going to keep us)

Joh 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

Jesus asks The Father to protect them from the evil in the world that seeks to destroy them. This can only occur if we follow Jesus as our King (Lord) and are a citizen of His Kingdom.

Joh 17:15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

He asks The Father to Sanctify us (set us apart from the world and show we belong to Him)because we follow Jesus and believe what He said.

Joh 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

So that we can do the work of The Father which is what Jesus did.

Joh 17:18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

That we will have the same unity with The Father that Jesus had so that we will have the same purposes as Jesus and be united as one with Him and The Father having the same heart and objectives.

Joh 17:21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

Jesus then asks The Father that His followers can be with them in heaven

Joh 17:24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

Jesus then shows that all He did was for The Father and in this is our example. We obey Jesus as Lord but we really are doing the Will of The Father just as Jesus did on earth.

Joh 17:26 And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

So just before He dies Jesus tells us about The Holy Spirit and His role in our life and informs us that it is The Will of The Father that He and we are to do.

He does not ask to be relieved of what He is to face but asks for strength to do it (Jn 18) and by this shows His Love for them by laying down His life for them and all who will follow Him.

Mat 26:39 And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

We are told earlier that He resolutely went to Jerusalem to die and He would have known what He was going to face. In the garden He prayed for strength to carry out His coming death and declared that He was willing to die for The Father.

He is our example in that we should face what God has prepared for us and be willing to die for Him if necessary.

Having prepared Himself as best He could and given final instructions to His followers He went forth to face His death!

His Death and Resurrection

Knowing it was the Will of The Father for Him to die Jesus went to his death uncomplainingly and did not defend himself but trusted The Father for the outcome and was justified in this trust by The Resurrection.

In this He showed the apostles He believed in the principle of ‘turning the other cheek’ and then going to those in authority for justice – the authority in this case being The Father.

He also forgave all who had offended Him through His trial and death. He had done so in His heart but spoke it out so people would know for certain He had done this and had not sinned by complaining against them or denigrating them. By this He showed He had not sinned and so could redeem mankind.

In all this He taught how we were to face death and the hope we had after it.

After His death

He appeared to many and ate and spent time with the apostles before ascending to heaven. His final words to His Apostles (His followers) can be summarised as follows:

The last words of Jesus to His people can be summarised as follows:

"All power (authority) is given unto me in heaven and in earth:

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations I have risen,

Baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you

And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in My name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

*And these signs shall follow them that believe;
In my name shall they cast out devils;*

They shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents;

And if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; They shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover

And, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

These actions will be observable in the life of a follower of Jesus when Jesus requires them to be done.

The death of Jesus

Jesus showed that it was more important for one man to die for the many than not die.

He knew His Father's Will was for Him to die to redeem humanity and accepted it. He did not try to defend Himself before Pontius Pilate but accepted His coming death because The Father had chosen Him for this event and His greatest desire was to do the Will of The Father. He bowed to the authority over Him and turned the other cheek.

Because He knew it was His father's Will he accepted it and did not defend Himself or say wrong or angry things to His accusers. IF He had He would not have been able to redeem us because of the sin He would have committed of rebelling against Authority.

By His death Jesus showed the importance of Authority lines of which the one God has over all is the most important.

Lessons from this study

When you examine the teachings of Jesus you can see that He gave knowledge but more important He gave the attitudes necessary to correctly express this knowledge. He majored on attitudes of which the expression of God's Quality of Love was the most important.

He also advised us of the importance of The Holy Spirit in our life to guide and empower us to do the work of The Kingdom.

He never spoke about prophets, apostles, evangelists pastors and teachers as separate ministries in themselves but always spoke about our relationship to God and the attitudes we should have and before He rose to heaven implied the most important things were to express The Kingdom of God and demonstrate it in our life.

In the writings of the Apostles you will not find the five fold. It is found in writings attributed to an apostle but written by someone who was not trained by Jesus so is not what Jesus taught.

Jesus recognised only prophets and expected all the other roles to be done by a Christian.

Note He also did not emphasis gifts or prophecy because The Holy Spirit was to guide us and tell us all we needed to know or do so we did not need to consult another except as a second witness.

In conclusion we need to guard our heart because out of that come our attitudes and it is the heart attitudes behind those we express which will either condemn us or approve us before God when we face His Judgement after our death.

Labourers Luke 10:2

One of the few things He said to ask The Father for was to pray for labourers to do His work.

And he said unto them, The harvest is plenteous, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest,

Once again Satan has shown how he has trained the Church. When was he last time you or your church prayed for labourers for His Harvest?

Having told them this He then sends them out to labour in His Work.

It was soon after they returned that He gave them His final teachings in the upper room.

It was during this period before the upper room discourse that Jesus summarised His teachings in the parable of the Good Samaritan

Br first He summarised His requirements to live in Luke 10:28:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God [2]with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself

And showing them that everyone was to be reached for Him by showing that the despised Samaritans were also to be approached with The Gospel.

Jesus reinforces that The Father is t I be prayed too Luke 11:1-13:

At the beginning of His Ministry and near the end of it Jesus reminds them that The Father is to be asked for all their needs and states that they are like children to Him so that He will only give them that which they need.

They were not told to pray to Jesus or The Holy Spirit and that was not changed by Him before He resurrected and when Jesus talks about the role of The Holy Spirit a little later prayer to Him is not mentioned.

In a discourse similar to the Sermon on The Mount just before the upper room discourse Jesus reminds them of what He taught them at the beginning of their training as if to reinforce it but adds a few more things (Luke 12):

He spoke of the need to confess who He was and what He taught and not deny Him as God would deny them entrance to heaven (v8).

Even though He had taught them about The Holy Spirit He taught them to deny The Spirit and His workings would send them to hell (v9). So to deny The Holy Spirit and His ministry on earth is what blasphemy of The Holy Spirit is because He is talking about denying any of The Godhead in these verses.

He then shows them the role of The Holy Spirit in guiding them in their ministry (v11-12):

And when they bring you before the synagogues, and the rulers, and the authorities, be not anxious how or what ye shall answer, or what ye shall say: for the Holy Spirit shall teach you in that very hour what ye ought to say.

He then warned against the attitude of covetousness (v15) as that would say God had not given them what they needed (v15):

keep yourselves from all covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

Their purpose on earth was not to obtain things or security or to show they were better than other men but to serve Jesus. They were reminded of Mat 6:33 that their objective should be to know Jesus and do His Will for His Kingdom and not to be the greatest person in any area.

This is one reason He sent them out with little to support them so show how The Father would meet their needs.

He then uses the parable of the wise virgins to warn them to look for His coming so that they will not miss the rapture. Many Christians will be left behind because they were not expecting the rapture and living as they were required by God to be raptured.

He then warns them of the need to repent (turn away from the world's lifestyle to the one He requires) if they were to obtain heaven (Luke 13:5).

He warns them of the uncertainty of life and that they may never live long enough to enjoy the coveted things they had obtained (The parable of the rich fool Luke 12:13ff)

He then spoke about the hypocrisy found in organised religion Luke 13:10-21 where the rules were bent to suit the needs of the moment and showed that The Sabbath observance was also a day to show God's Love and Mercy and not just be observed legalistically. By this He showed that legalism was not a part of The Kingdom of God.

Jesus points to the results of a person's ministry as proof they belong to Him by using His own ministry as an example to show that the fruit of it pointed out Him being the Messiah (Jn 10:37-38).

He then told them the importance of self-discipline so that they were always striving to do the will of God and not that of the world (Luk 13:22-35). The Kingdom had guidelines and they were to strive to live within those guidelines if they desired to be His followers and Representative.

Having said the above He then tells them to count the cost of following Him (Luke 14:23)

So therefore whosoever he be of you that renounceth not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

If Jesus is your King and Lord then He is in complete control of your life and you then become only stewards of what you have and not owners so that Jesus can do whatever He needs to do with what you have; your life, your relationships, your ministry/employment/work, all you are steward for on for His behalf.

If you truly follow Jesus as Lord then His Will is your will regardless of the cost to you.

The parable of the prodigal son illustrates that God accept repentant sinners as they are and not as the establishment says they should be Like 15:1-32). This told the disciples that they were to accept all who repented (non-Jews)and not just those that were acceptable(Jews).

The parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin shows the joy that God has over a sinner who repents and is found again for the Kingdom. Showing them how much God loves us.

He illustrates a principle of ministry that you need to show faithfulness in small things before God will trust you with greater things (Luke 16:10).

He that is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much: and he that is unrighteous in a very little is unrighteous also in much.

If you cannot manage your own children how can God trust with others which is why an elder/minister needs to have their house under control.

He reminds them again they cannot serve their own purposes and that of God at the same time (Luke 15:13).

So at the end of the training of the twelve Jesus restates many principles He stated at the beginning to remind them of what they had signed up for if they were a genuine follower of Him.

Conclusion

When one sees the pattern of teaching of the disciples the progression of its subject matters has a beauty about its order which God alone could have composed over the whole period Jesus trained the twelve.

I hope this little study has given you a sense of the beauty of the progression of training Jesus gave the twelve as well as showed what He taught them which is basically all the Christians had for many years.
Neville