



Pastor Scott Velain

## A Parable of Manna

This morning will be taking a look at Matthew chapter 13. A lot of what our Messiah said when he was here with us, he said in parables, and the messages that he gave us in these parables are quite profound.

A parable is much like a proverb, and there are great spiritual meanings hidden within each one of these parables that our Messiah speaks of. The problem is, that much of today's society can't understand them.

My friends, I cannot tell you how many people that there are, who have sat down and read the Bible, and got absolutely nothing out of it. Well educated people, I'm not talking about illiterate people, I am not talking about people with a reading handicap, I'm talking about some very astute, very intelligent, very well-to-do people, very famous people... that have read through the Bible and have somehow completely, and utterly missed, or misunderstood... everything that our Father in heaven was trying to tell them. Why?

We'll get to the why they can't understand in just a moment. Our Messiah is going to tell us why they can't understand, and his explanation of why they can't understand, will be just another very important piece of the puzzle that most of today's culture and society simply do not seem to be able to... understand.

But what's important is that we understand them. What's important is that before we ever even pick up the Bible to read it... that we always take a moment to bow our heads and pray, and to ask him for the discernment to understand his God breathed Scripture the way he wants us to understand them, and not the way we choose to understand them.

Too many would be professing Christians today only pick up the Bible to read it when they have an agenda to prove, or when they want to cherry pick a Scripture from here or there in order to prove their point. And they are so enamored with their own vanity, and their own sheer stubbornness, that God simply does not allow them to understand what they're reading.

Bill Marr, who is a highly successful talk show host is a perfect example of such an individual. Oprah Winfrey is another perfect example of such an individual. Because of their own vanity, and because of their own stubborn and stiff-necked agendas, and the will to be their own God's... they have openly and publicly rejected the only begotten son of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob.

I want us to understand how powerful vanity can be. I want us to understand that vanity is without a doubt the devil's favorite sin. When we think we're smarter than God is, when we think that there are many ways to get to heaven, when we think that we can get to heaven on our own by simply being a nice person, or when we think that we have no obligation, and when we think that nothing we do really matters anyway... we become nothing more than a wandering generality.

I want to be clear about what is happening within our culture. Most of our society, and our culture cannot see, and cannot understand, because they don't want to see, and they don't want to understand. Oprah Winfrey claims that because God is a jealous God... that she could never serve him. Bill Marr on the other hand simply believes that his God is a firecracker. An explosion in outer space. A random coincidence. Cosmic chaos, that just somehow seems to have found order in a vast universe of nothingness.

All of life here on earth, depends on all other life here on earth. Man cannot live without the bumblebee to pollinate his crops so that he can have food. The bumblebee cannot live without pollen and the plants. The plants cannot live without nourishing soil, and sunlight, and rain. Rain cannot fall from the heavens without the evaporation process that comes from the lakes and the oceans of the earth. Nothing my friends... absolutely nothing on this planet survives on its own. Everything literally depends on everything else, and yet... all of this accidentally fell into order. All of this... accidentally came out of chaos.

According to people like Bill Marr, God doesn't exist. And according to people like Oprah Winfrey, God's a liar. Neither of which make any sense to those of us who have the Ruach Hackodesh dwelling within us. And there's a reason for that. And it's important that we understand what that reason is. And we're going to let the Bible explained to us what that reason is here this morning as we move forward.

Let's begin by reading Matthew chapter 13 versus one through nine:

*Mat 13:1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea.*

*Mat 13:2 And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach.*

*Mat 13:3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow.*

*Mat 13:4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them.*

*Mat 13:5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil,*

*Mat 13:6 but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away.*

*Mat 13:7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.*

*Mat 13:8 Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.*

*Mat 13:9 He who has ears, let him hear.”*

Believe it or not, there are people in the world today who do not have the eyes to see, nor do they have ears to hear, what our Messiah is trying to tell us in this parable.

There are people in the world today believe it or not, who are totally lost, and will never be able to understand the Scriptures unless someone with eyes to see and ears to hear tells them what they mean. And I know that some of you may be laughing at this point in time, but what I'm telling you is the truth.

Our Messiah talks about a sower who went out to sow some seeds. To sow means to plant. The sower, (or the planter) is God. The seeds are his people. When God plants his people on the earth, even though he sows the truth in their hearts, the devil often times devours them immediately and they don't even put up a fight. Some people fall on rocky ground where life is difficult, and even though they sustain themselves with the things of this world, they don't have the spiritual soil that they need to be rooted in, and so the sun which is a representation of persecution causes them to shrink back and to wither away.

Some people fall among the thorns. We've all heard that old saying that "you tend to become what you associate with". If you associate with the wrong kind of people, chances are good that you're going to become the wrong kind of people. The Bible tells a believer not to be yoked together with unbelievers for reason. These unbelieving people are the thorns that choke out people who have associated themselves with evil, and worldly people.

Some people fall on good soil and they produce good fruit, and thereby cause other people to also believe and to become part of the body of our Messiah and the Olive tree of Israel. And they often times cause hundreds of people to be able to see what they see, and to hear what they hear. It's written that faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Some people produce 60 other people who also believe, and some people produce 30 other people, and so on and so forth.

What our Messiah is explaining here is simply human nature. This is what the fall of man has caused. And it all began with the disobedience of Adam. I want us to turn to first Corinthians chapter 15 verse 45:

*1Co 15:45 Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.*

You see the first Adam failed mankind. The first Adam, because of his disobedience caused man

to fall. But the last man, also known as Yeshua Hamashiach came to lead us back to the tree of life that we were separated from in the garden because of Adam's disobedience. Let's continue one with verse 46 through 50:

*1Co 15:46 But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual.*

*1Co 15:47 The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven.*

*1Co 15:48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven.*

*1Co 15:49 Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.*

*1Co 15:50 I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.*

This again is a secret that the world does not, and cannot understand. The idea that there are many ways to get to heaven as Oprah Winfrey so proudly proclaims... is nothing more than a steel jawed trap that's been set for those who have made themselves friends of this world. James chapter 4 verse four tells us that whoever wishes to be a friend of the world, makes themselves an enemy of God. Oprah Winfrey has built her own religion and is right now as we speak leading hundreds of thousands if not millions of people into the pit along with the little "g" god of this world. The sad part of it is, that after they have fully rejected our Messiah, they don't even know what they're doing anymore. Let's turn to Romans chapter 1 versus 21 through 32:

*Rom 1:21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.*

*Rom 1:22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools,*

*Rom 1:23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.*

*Rom 1:24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,*

*Rom 1:25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.*

*Rom 1:26 For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature;*

*Rom 1:27 and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.*

*Rom 1:28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.*

*Rom 1:29* They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips,

*Rom 1:30* slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,

*Rom 1:31* foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.

*Rom 1:32* Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

Oprah Winfrey and people like her are full of envy. And yes, they do indeed murder without knowing it because they are leading people, and their children, and their children's children into the pit. They're full of strife, and deceit, and maliciousness because they did not see fit to acknowledge God. They are gossips who literally live on gossip, slanderers of those who truly believe. In their hearts they truly do hate God because he is a jealous God. They are insolent and haughty because they are full of themselves and their own vanity. They are boastful inventors of evil who are indeed disobedient to their Father in heaven. Claiming to be wise... they have become foolish, faithless, heartless and ruthless.

My friends I can't think of anything more ruthless that a human being could possibly do... than to lead people away from their Father in heaven and the everlasting life that he has offered them through the very blood of his only begotten son. How much worse punishment you think will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the spirit of grace?

This is exactly why our Messiah spoke in parables. People who have openly and publicly rejected him have also been rejected... by him. I'd like us to read Matthew chapter 13 versus 10 through 16:

*Mat 13:10* Then the disciples came and said to him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?"

*Mat 13:11* And he answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.

*Mat 13:12* For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.

*Mat 13:13* This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

*Mat 13:14* Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: "'You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive.'"

*Mat 13:15* For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.'

**Mat 13:16** *But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear.*

This my friends, I'm afraid is not a parable. These are very straightforward red-letter words that come from the very breath, the very tongue, and the very mouth of our Messiah. Openly rejecting him in public is not a wise idea. After all he did, after all he gave, after all he went through... who in their right mind would ever proclaim that there was another way to heaven? Who in their right mind would ever deny him? Who in their right mind would ever turn away from him? Only the wicked, only the despotic, only a Wolf in sheep's clothing would do such a thing.

My friend's wolves in sheep's clothing come in many forms. The world is full of wolves in sheep's clothing. Wolves who want to entertain us. Wolves who want to sing for us. Wolves who want to dance for us. Wolves who want to act for us. Wolves that want to show off their athletic ability for us. Beautifully beautiful, and handsomely handsome, with beautiful smiles of perfect white teeth, and gorgeously glorious hair that flows in the wind, and bodies like Greek gods and goddesses.

Wolves in sheep's clothing abound in our entertainment industry, and in our music videos. They are splashed across the silver screen and through our eyes our imaginations run wild, and we are beguiled. Their music is pumped through the airwaves into our hearing, and our imaginations run wild, and we and our children are beguiled. Even in our commercials, and in our modern-day marketing campaigns, they splash these wolves in sheep's clothing all over our television screens, and our billboards, and our magazines, and news-papers.

And what's even worse... is that these wolves in sheep's clothing have even entered into our assemblies. They stand behind our pulpits preaching "once saved always saved", and "do as thou wilt is now the whole of the law". They preach first day of the week Sunday Sabbath's, and Good Friday's, and Easter's and all the rest of their pagan trash that is not found anywhere within the pages of the 66 books of their Bibles.

They fly around in corporate jets with houses on either coast. They dress in three-piece Armani suits with patent leather shoes, carrying their patent leather Bibles proclaiming another Jesus, and another spirit, and another gospel that is in direct opposition to the one that our Messiah and his apostles came to preach.

Let's continue on with Matthew chapter 13 versus 18 through 23:

**Mat 13:18** *"Hear then the parable of the sower:*

**Mat 13:19** *When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path.*

**Mat 13:20** *As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy,*

*Mat 13:21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.*

*Mat 13:22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.*

*Mat 13:23 As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”*

I want us to pay close attention to verse 19. *“When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart”*.

My friends I cannot tell you how many times I have seen this happen with my own eyes. People who hear the word of God, and yet don't understand it. Why don't they understand it? They don't understand it because they don't want to understand it. It's uncomfortable for them to understand it. Even though he has sown the truth in their hearts... they choose not to understand it because they don't want to.

The words can be as plain as day. The Scripture can be crystal-clear, and yet they will simply choose not to understand it. My friends I want us to understand that our Messiah has sown the truth in our hearts. When people hear the gospel message for the first time, you generally have two kinds of reaction. The first reaction is a prideful rejection. “I don't think I should have to do that”, or “nobody else is doing that, so I'm not going to do it either”, or “how can a loving God do this, or how can a loving God do that?”, that always seems to give them what they think... is an easy out.

The second reaction is a reaction of tears and the breaking of a stone-cold heart, and the birth of a new fleshly heart with the laws of Yahovah written upon it.

I've seen both. And just like our Messiah says, there are some who hear the gospel message and immediately receive it with joy... but as soon as persecution comes, or as soon as they read something that they don't like... they immediately fall away just like the seed that was sown on rocky ground.

You see all of this has been prophesied about. Our Messiah was well aware of what people were going to do with the free gift of salvation that he gave them. Our Messiah went to that cross knowing what people were going to do. While they were beating him with whips, and ripping the beard out of his face, and stripping him of his clothes, and spitting on him and mocking him, and humiliating him... he knew what people were going to do with the free gift of salvation that he was trying to give them. And make no mistake about it my friends... our Father in heaven knew it to.

And this is exactly why he does not want them to understand. This is exactly why he has turned

them over to a debased mind. This is exactly why he will throw the prostitute onto a sick bed along with those who commit adultery with her. This is why he will throw them into great tribulation unless they repent of their works. He will strike her children dead... And all the churches will know that he is the one who searches the hearts and the minds of his people, and he is the one who gives each one of us according to our works.

Our God is truly a loving God who loves his children, but he also clearly understands that to spare the Rod is to spoil the child. Our Father clearly understands the danger of playing with evil. Evil is to be quickly disciplined and dealt with expediently. It's not a game.

When our children first learn how to walk, and we tell them not to go in the street, and they decide to do it anyway... we quickly administer a good spanking so that they will remember what happens when you go in the street. They're too young to understand why they're not allowed to go in street. But an unpleasant spanking will serve as a constant reminder not to do it again. What they don't understand is that if they walk out into the street, it will lead to certain death. And so, it is with rejecting the word of God. You reject God, and you reject his commandments and his precepts and his appointments, and it will lead to certain death.

I'd rather be thrown into a sick bed, and I'd rather face great tribulation than to face death, and being separated from my Father and his only begotten Son for all of eternity because I was too stupid to get it.

In first Corinthians chapter 5 a man is caught sleeping with his father's wife, and Paul tells them to purge this evil person from among them, and to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

Some people through persecution and chastisement will learn the hard way. Some people are actually saved this way. I myself was raised without a father. Much of what I have learned had to be learned the hard way. I learned from being homeless what it meant to have a job and to put in a hard day's work. I learned later on in life that using my fists was not the only way to solve a dispute. I learned through the military how to take care of myself.

Everything that I learned, I had to learn the hard way. It was persecution that refined me. A few cold nights of waking up outside in a field drowning in a puddle of cold rainwater in the middle of a storm does wonders for your motivation to get a job.

Our God indeed is a loving God. I thank my Father in heaven for all that he has taught me, and I thank my Father in heaven for the way that he taught me, because I'll never forget it. My heart knows what it is to wake up cold and hungry and homeless. My heart knows what it's like to be alone and to have the deep dark demon of depression constantly knocking at your door.

But it is because I know these things that I know how far my Father and his only begotten Son have brought me. I know the blessings that I have had bestowed upon me. I understand the

kindness that he has shown me, and the faith that now runs through my veins that he has blessed me with. I know what it's like to be without him... and I know what it's like to be with him. And I will never be without him again. Not ever, not in this lifetime, and certainly not in the next. He's given me a work to do, and I intend to do it.

And this is the quintessential way in which we learn. All of humanity learns the same way. Some of us are just a little smarter, and we get it right from the beginning. Others require a little more time to come around. Some people have to absolutely hit rock bottom, and have nothing else to live for... before they can finally understand. Some people need to hit the very lowest of lows, and completely destroy themselves before they're finally willing to surrender everything back to him, and allow him to take control of their lives. Some might say that this is a tragedy. but from my own experience... I can't call it that.

It is written that our Father only chastises those whom he loves. Sometimes when we're being chastised we think that it's the devil that is doing it to us. But sometimes it's just our Father trying to get our attention. Sometimes it takes a good long hard look in the mirror to understand what's happening. No matter what we're going through, we need to remember that somewhere in the world, someone else is going through exactly what we're going through. We need to remember that our Messiah not only conquered the world, but that he also conquered hell and Hades. No matter how bad we think things are... We need to remember, that things are not going to stay that way. The world, and life are constantly changing. Even this earth and heaven itself is going to pass away, and a new heaven and new earth will be established

The day is going to soon come when God will once again dwell with man on the earth, and he will wipe away every tear from their eyes and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning or crying nor pain anymore, for the former things will have passed away.

But this... is only for those who accept him. This is only for those who pick up their crosses and follow him and do as he did, and walk as he walked. I'd like us to turn to Matthew chapter 13 verse 44:

*Mat 13:44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."*

This is one of the shortest, and yet one of the most profound parables that our Messiah ever spoke. A man finds a treasure buried in a field. What would most people do? Most people would dig up the treasure and go spend it on all kinds of worldly things. But this man does something profoundly different. Instead of digging up the treasure, and going and spending the money... he sells everything that he has, and buys the whole field that the treasure is in, and everything in it.

That's what it's all about my friends. If we looked at our faith, and the salvation that we have

been given like that treasure... The way that man did ...and we realized how important that it truly is... we would sell all of our worldly garbage and invest in all of the word of God. Not just the salvation part... but also the love of God part, the “if you love me you will keep my commandments” part. The laws of God written on our hearts part. The seventh day of the week Sabbath part. The head coverings part. The zit zit’s part. The Passover part, the feast of unleavened bread part, the first fruits part, the Pentecost part, the day of trumpets part, the day of atonement part, the feast of Tabernacles part, and all of the whole field... would belong to us. And not just the, “I believe” with my lips part.

There is nothing that I own more precious than the faith that he has given me. Everything that I own belongs to him. When I die, somebody else will be talking into this microphone. Somebody else will be looking into this camera. Somebody else will be typing on this keyboard. Somebody else will be driving my old truck, they’ll be sleep in my old bed, and they’ll be eating with my favorite fork and spoon. Somebody else will be wearing my clothes, somebody else will be sitting in my easy chair hopefully watching my YouTube channel... Because I won’t need them anymore.

But I’m not worried. Because I bought the field... and the treasure that goes along with it.

Before we go I’d like to finish by reading the last part of Matthew chapter 13. Matthew chapter 13 versus 53 through 58:

*Mat 13:53 And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there,*

*Mat 13:54 and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, “Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works?”*

*Mat 13:55 Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?*

*Mat 13:56 And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?”*

*Mat 13:57 And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household.”*

*Mat 13:58 And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.*

This is a very profound truth that few Christians catch. Even our own Messiah was not accepted in his own town. The people that were closest to him were the ones who had the most difficult time believing him. They had grown used to him. They knew him too well. To them, he was just a normal guy. He was their neighbor, their brother, the carpenter that worked with his father.

How could this nobody... have such a powerful message for the whole world? How could this simple young kid have the knowledge of something so profound that it would literally shake the pillars of heaven and earth? It was just Yeshua... the kid next door... how could this simple

young man have the keys to heaven in his back pocket?

My friends, the next time your friends and family won't listen to you... the next time they laugh at you... the next time they wave you off when you mention our Messiah's name... remember what they must be thinking. Who are you? You're just a guy next door.

Little do they know... that greater is he that is in you, then he who is in the world. If you're being rejected in your own home, and in your own community, you're in good company.

And that concludes our study for this Shabbat. I hope that we have given you something to take to your prayer closet and to test to the fire of prayer the seventh day Sabbath.