

August 6, 2017

## The Opposition Illustrated (7)

*Matthew 13:31-33, 44-58*

### The Parables of the Mustard Seed & the Leaven (v. 31-35)

- Jesus assures the disciples that His Kingdom will grow even in the midst of constant and even violent opposition from the world.
- From the small mustard seed to the large bush in which the birds roost [**Ez. 17:23**], from the small amount of yeast that permeates the entire loaf [**Lev. 7:13–14**], the Kingdom of God will fill the earth by God's sovereign decree.
- God will build Kingdom on earth in fulfillment of His creation purpose to have a people with whom He will enjoy eternal fellowship (**Ex. 25:8; Is. 7:14**).
- Jesus assures His disciples that, like the Mustard seed and the leaven, His Kingdom will triumph over all other kingdoms.

*Rev. 7:9 -17 ...I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" 11 And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."*

- Jesus' use of parables is explained as fulfilling the Scripture in **Psalm 78:2**.

### **The Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl of Great Value** (v. 44-46)

- Even though the world will consider the members of His Kingdom to be worthless, they are to God of great value having been purchased by the blood of Christ (**Eph.2:13**).
- From the perspective of the natural, we have no intrinsic worth to God but from the perspective of God's eternal purpose, we are His worthy children in Christ who have been declared to be worthy of His grace.

*Acts 5:41 ...they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name...*

### **The Parable of the Net** (v. 47-50)

- Like the parable of the wheat and the weeds, the good and the bad fish swim together in the same sea, but the Lord will separate them on the DAY of Judgment.
- God's Gospel net will gather all into His presence but only those who are His fish will be blessed, the others who rejected His message will be rejected.

**John 6:39** ...I shall lose none of all that He has given Me, but raise them up at the last day

- He concludes by telling them that they are God's spiritual scribes [2 Cor.3:2-3] who have been given the treasure [2 Cor.4:7] of the revelation of the kingdom.
  
- Jesus now heads home to Nazareth but, rather than being received He is rejected (**John 1:12**).