

TREASURES OF A HOUSEHOLDER

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In Matthew chapter 13, Jesus Christ taught his disciples a series of parables, including the ones about the sower, the wheat and tares, the mustard seed, the leaven in the meal, and several others. After concluding his instruction, in Matthew 13:51, Jesus asked his disciples, “*Have ye understood all these things? They say unto him, Yea, Lord.*” In the next verse, Jesus replied to them with another parable, “*Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is a householder, which brings forth out of his treasure things new and old.*” Although it is a brief parable, the lesson which it teaches is important and powerful.

Old Treasures

In the context of the parable of the householder’s treasures, Jesus is speaking about the things that his disciples *understand*. Having just asked the disciples if they understood, he then gives this parable and applies it to “every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven.” All Christians are necessarily “instructed unto the kingdom of heaven.” Without any instruction about the things concerning the kingdom of heaven, it is impossible to be a Christian in the first place. This is one of the great points in Jeremiah’s prophecy of the differences between the Old and New Covenants (Jer 31:31-34). “And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: *for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them*” (Jer 31:34; Heb 8:11). Faith in God comes by hearing His word (Rom 10:17), and without faith, it is impossible to please God (Heb 11:6). Therefore, we must hear God’s word in order to believe it, and we must then have a living, obedient faith in order to be saved (Rom 10:8-17; Jas 2:14-26). We have been born again by the incorruptible seed, which is the word of God inspired by the Holy Spirit (John 3:1-5; 1 Pet 2:22-23). In this respect, there are certain things that we have understood from “old.” Indeed, 1 John 2:7 says, “*The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning.*” Similarly, 2 John 5-6 says, “*And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another. And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment,*

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(continued)

That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.”

Thus, there are many things that we have understood from the beginning of our Christian life, that we must continue to walk in. And it is “safe” for us to be continually reminded of these things (Php 3:1; 2 Pet 1:12-15; 3:1-2).

New Treasures

Although there are many things that are “old” to us as Christians, there are still many new treasures to be found. We should be continuing to learn and understand more of God’s will every day. In fact, we have been *commanded* to grow spiritually (2 Pet 3:18). Luke 2:52 tells us that Jesus Christ did! In 2 Corinthians 4:16, the Lord tells us that our “inward man is renewed day by day.” God provides the “milk” in His word that is necessary for the nourishment and spiritual growth of babes in Christ (1 Pet 2:2). We then need to become skillful in the word of righteousness and progress to the “strong meat” (Heb 5:11-14). Hebrews 6:1-3 says, *“Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this will we do, if God permit.”* We should all be able to relate to the experience of having read certain passages of scripture many times, but one day we understand things that are in there that we never saw before. *“Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law”* (Psa 119:18). Truly, we need to have our love “abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment” (Php 1:9). *“And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men,* even as we do toward you: to the end he may establish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints. Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, *that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more”* (1 Thes 3:12-4:1). No matter how much we understand, we know nothing yet as we ought to know (1 Cor 8:2). Therefore, Christians are indeed like the householder who brings out of his treasure both old and new things.