

# Puzzling Parables

*New and Old Treasure*

Part 12 - January 8, 2017

Welcome to where we faithfully come to authentically reevaluate our faith.



## Did you make any New Year resolutions?

I do a variation when I close out the year. I list the highlights, good and bad, of the previous year, by going through a journal that I write in each night (I ended up with 89). Ten of my highpoints and low-points: New couch; Amazon Alexa; Harmonized empty tomb accounts; Mom passed away; Shar had sinus surgery; Cascade Mall shooting; Reading glasses; 2nd grandson; Sanctuary carpet; Trump won.



**I talk to God about what took place, and how I reacted and responded;** and, *then* I organize my office, my workshop, and my to-do list. And, then: *Hello 2017! However you do New Year resolutions, does the Lord make your list?*



If we don't regularly reevaluate our faith, **what we believe, why we believe it, and what we're doing with it,** it'll get relegated somewhere below smoking less and losing 10 pounds. Both *good* things; but, **better to die unhealthy and go to Heaven, than to be perfectly fit in Hell.** *Not* that there's *only* the *two choices*. I'm just making a point about priorities.



Jesus is closing out a very long day: mobbed; attempted kidnapping by His family; healing a demon possessed, mute, deaf, blind, man, among others. The religious leaders said He's Satanic. He said they'll burn in hell unless they repent. And, they broke for brunch together ... *but, He didn't wash.* Then, He got in a boat.



He taught about the Kingdom, beginning with a **Sower and four soils.** The Kingdom is like **wheat mixed the weeds;** and **mysterious growing seeds;** and a **miraculous mustard seed;** and **yeast hidden in flour.** Then He went inside and taught that **truth, like a lamp, is meant to shed light.** But, **the Kingdom is like hidden treasure;** and like a **Merchant seeking pearls;** and like **fishing with a net.**



And now, as the sun sets, Jesus asks His dazed disciples if they have *any* questions about *any* of His teachings, or *anything* regarding *any* of His reactions and responses in the day's events.

"Have you understood all these things?" Jesus asked. "Yes," they replied. [But, they didn't. (Mk 9:32Lk 9:45; Jn 12:16)] – Matthew 13:51 NIV

They're tired; overwhelmed; ignorant; leery of a lengthy answer; hungry; or, afraid to look dumb. *Whatever* their reason, **they either assume they do understand everything**; or, **they assume they know as much as they need to know ... for now**. Either way, it's an asinine assumption.

God's in their living room, saying, "Any questions?" "Uh ... *nope*."

**What should they have asked? What would you have asked?**

Know what *I* would've asked? "What *should* I ask?" ... but, then, *hindsight's 20/20*.

He said to them, [with the patience of Job] "**Therefore** [“regarding apprentices who comprehend everything I just taught”] every teacher of **the law** [the Old Covenant] who has **been instructed about the kingdom of heaven** [which He just did in nine parables, *brilliantly* reconstructing OT symbols into a *New Testament! A New Covenant!* Once concealed; now revealed! “Anyway, anyone who knows all that”] is like the **owner of a house** [a title Jesus gives Himself (Luke 13:25)] who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.” – Matthew 13:52 NIV

**Want to own truth? Figure out what you need to find out. Then seek it out.**

He's a Good Teacher; be a good student. **Learn what to ask. Push past the excuses.**

**Own that house! Fill it with treasure!**

Your word I have treasured in my heart ... – Psalm 119:11a NAS



Because, **our heart is where we house our treasure**. Just, whatever you do, **don't assume you already know ... anything!**

[Some Pharisees] asked, "What? Are we blind too?" Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains. – John 9:40-41 NIV

**Jesus is glad to work with ignorance; but, He won't tolerate arrogance.**

We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. **The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know**. But the man who loves God is known by God. – 1 Corinthians 8:1b-3 NIV

There are *four different* words for "knowing", and two for "loving", in this verse.

We **know** [eidō: perceive] that we all possess **knowledge**. [gnosis: intelligence] **Knowledge** [gnosis: intelligence] puffs up, but **love** [agape: affection; compassion] builds up. The man who **thinks** [dokeō: assumes] he **knows** [eidō: perceives] something does not yet **know** [ginōskō: come to know] as he ought to **know**. [ginōskō: come to know] But the man who **loves** [agapaō: welcomes and adores] God **is known** [ginōskō: comes to be known] by God. – 1 Corinthians 8:1b-3 NIV

Reminds me of when Jesus said that ...

“Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never **knew** [ginōskō: came to know] you.’” – Matthew 7:22-23 NIV

**Why? They never came to know Him. Why? They had assumed they already did.** So, the big question is: **are you coming to know the Lord?**

“Once the **owner of the house** [this is Jesus referring to Himself] gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, ‘Sir, open the door for us.’ “But he will answer, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from.’” – Luke 13:25 NIV

**If we don’t come to know, we don’t come to be known.** And, when we think we fully know something, we assume something that hinders any chance of growing in deeper and truer knowing.

**“He’s a jerk.”    “She’s out to get me.”    “Jesus loves me just the way I am.”**

**Each statement contains some truth; but, not enough truth.** So, in all things with the **Lord**, His **Word**, and the **people** He’s placed around you, **are you coming to know, or assuming you do?**



‘Cause, you *know* what happens when we assume, *right?*

An empty-headed person won’t become wise any more than a wild donkey ... [That’s funnier in King James!] – Job 11:12a NLT

*When we assume we’re full of understanding, it makes a donkey out of all of us.*



By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures. ... if you **find it**, there is a future hope for you [because you’re a **seeker**] ... – Proverbs 24:3-4, 14 NIV

So, **how can we ever know that we know enough to stop seeking? We can’t; ‘cause, we can’t.**

**But, we can absolutely, unequivocally, know that we love. Know how? Love “builds up”.**

What exactly does it *build up*? A house. The word translated as “builds up” [oikodomeō] is literal. It means to construct a house on an existing foundation.

And, it immediately reminds me of two scriptures:

[When Jesus said] “Whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and **does** [*poieō: constructs; forms; fashions*] them, I will liken him to a wise man who **built** [*oikodomeō*] his house on the rock” – Matthew 7:24 NKJ

And, Jesus *did* liken him, “to the **owner** of a **house** who brings out of *his storeroom* new treasures as well as old.” **How big do you assume the treasury is in that house? Surprise: the treasury is the house!** And, **what did you assume the house was built of? Wood? Surprise again.**

For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on this foundation with **gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw**, each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. – 1 Corinthians 3:11-13 NKJ

**Three of those building materials are refined treasures. And, three of ‘em are just fuel and fodder for the furnace. So, what are you building with? And, what are you building on?**

*There is One Foundation; and, the house is built with treasure!*

***What do I believe? That I must develop in the likeness of love.***

***Why do I believe it? Because, the Lord is the blueprint of love.***

***What am I doing with it? Seeking and storing and sharing my treasures, old and new.***

**Question: When does *new* treasure become *old* treasure?** Well, judging by Jesus’ words, sooner than you likely assumed. **“New”** (*kainos*): **recent; fresh; unused.** **“Old”** (*palaios*): ***no longer new.***

To those who truly love the Lord’s Kingdom, **the quest to seek, store, and share must never lose steam; or, God forbid, cease.** We have a clear choice to make, each and every moment, in each dramatic day: **we can think we know; or, we can know we love.**

***Do you think you know the Lord; or, know you love the Lord?***

***Do you think you know His Word; or, know you love His Word?***

***Do you think you know other people; or, know that you love ‘em?***

***Assuming puffs up.***

***Love builds up.***

***When Jesus had finished these parables, he moved on from there. – Matthew 13:53 NIV***

But, this particular dramatic day is *far* from over.