

Lesson 11 – J.R. Graves

Parable of the Two Sons and the Elder and Younger Brothers

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Parable of the Two Sons – Matt 21:28-32

- This is a historical-prophetical parable and has a national application
- Believe the son who promised to work, then refused in the nation of Jews
- - God called Israel to work at least twice: through Moses and Joshua
- - - Through Moses, Duet 30:15-20 and through Joshua, Josh 24:15-18
- - John the Baptist, the Lord, the Apostles all called the Jews to service; rejected
- - Paul and Barnabas turned work to Gentiles and they responded. Acts 13:44-46

Important Facts Learned from Parable

1. The Gentile is son who first refused, repented, and entered the vineyard work
2. JRG position is that Jews will be born like Paul, by appearance of the Lord
3. JRG the Jews will remain outside, rejecting gospel, until Christ's appearance

Parable of the Elder and Younger Brothers – Luke 15:11-32

- This parable revealed that the Gentiles would be fellow heirs with the Jews
- Parable is also introductory teaching for "Mysteries of Kingdom of Heaven"

Principle Features to be Interpreted

1. The elder brother
2. The younger brother
3. Younger brother's self alienation from Father's house
4. Younger brother's reckless prodigality (extravagant spending)
5. The ruin to which the younger brother was brought
6. The younger brother's reflections and resolution
7. The younger brother's reception by his Father
8. The unbrotherly conduct of the older brother

Key Thoughts – Jews unable to see these

- A son, though ruined by sinfulness, is still a son and dear to his Father
- The recovery of such a son should be sought and cause joy when realized
- That the Publicans and Sinners of their own nation were loved of God

General Interpretations – Untenable

1. That the prodigal represents the lost sinner who follows his fallen heart into lust
- - At some point, when at the bottom, he becomes convicted by his sinfulness
- - Being awakened to his sinfulness, he rises and returns to God seeking mercy
- - God sees him afar off, meets and pardons him, imparting grace and kindness
- When the older brother is noticed and brought in, many problems arise
- - The prodigal was already a son when he left his Father's house

2. Second interpretation, is the prodigal is a backslidden child of God
- - This backslider was awakened to his degraded condition and repents
- - Likewise, the Father meets him, forgives him, and welcomes home
- Problems arise when it is asked, who is the older brother?
- - He cannot represent Christians who get offended by one being received

What is the deeper and fuller meaning of the Parable?

- The "Pass Key" to this parable is it contains "Mystery of Kingdom of Heaven"
- The Gentiles are to become joint heirs in the Kingdom
- - The older brother is the Jewish Nation; the first born (see Exod 4:22)
- - This is the son who God called out of Egypt (see Hosea 2:1)
- - It is the Jews who were given adoption, glory, covenants, ... Rom 9:4
- The Gentiles were of the same parentage as Jews, born of Noah.
- - The great awakening of Gentiles started with house of Cornelius, Act 11:18
- - Since that time, the elder brother (the Jews) have stood offended
- - The offended nature of Jews was on display when Paul preached to the Gentiles, Acts 13:44-46.

1. In first parable, who was the son who promised to go work then refused to go?
2. What was the nature of the other son who represents the Gentile?
3. In the second parable, what was revealed about the Gentiles?
4. What were the Jews unable to see when it came to publicans and sinners of their own nation?
5. What makes it untenable to believe a lost sinner is represented by the prodigal son?
6. Who does the older brother represent in the second parable?
7. When did the great awakening of the Gentiles begin?