

THE WORD OF GOD

Sunday Morning: April 25, 2004

Read: Luke 8:5-11 "A [the] sower went out to sow his [the] seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. 6. And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. 7. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. 8. And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, **He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.** 9. And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be? 10. And he said, Unto you it is given to know **the mysteries of the kingdom of God:** but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand. 11. Now the parable is this: **The seed is the word of God.**"

I'd like to share with you some thoughts about the Word of God and the significance of the Word of God. The 'Word of God' commonly refers to the whole Bible but I think with some study, and diligence in study we can see that the Word of God is only a part of the Bible. And I want to us read this morning Luke chapter eight. And I want to read from verse four through eleven. A splendid passage of scripture! By the way, the word "a" (in verse five) should be translated 'the.' A particular sower went forth to sow "the" seed. "He that hath ears to hear let him hear" – the significance of this statement is that not all of the crowd had ears. Otherwise there would be no need to say, 'if you've got ears, you better listen'. The mysteries of the Kingdom of God are for those who have ears to hear. Others, that don't have ears to hear, will be able to hear the message but they will not be able to understand the message. The parables were a tool by which the Lord Jesus Christ taught the mysteries of the Kingdom of the Heavens and in this case it was the mystery of the Kingdom of God. They are synonymous. And so the Word of God, the seed that he was sowing is the Word of God and it is the mystery of the Kingdom of God and so therefore we see that the Word of God is not for everyone to understand and as he says, to be not able to see and not able to understand. Seeing, they may not see and hearing they might not understand. So the Word of God is a unique part of the Bible, for a unique people. Hebrews chapter five is another passage I want us to look at. Verse eleven beginning

Text: Hebrews 5:11-14 ". . . we have many things to **say**, and hard to be **uttered**, seeing ye are dull of **hearing**. (These had ears to hear) 12. For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the **first principles** of the oracles of God; and are become such **as have need of milk** (predigested food), and **not of strong** [solid, from the milk] **meat** [food, not flesh]. 13. For every one that **useth milk** *is* unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a **babe**. 14. But **strong** [solid] **meat** [food] belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

The writer of the Book of Hebrews had things he wanted to share but because of their hearing ability it made it very difficult for him to share some things. Though we find out in chapter six he is really not persuaded that they are of that condition. So he goes on and explains what he is trying to share and eventually we'll get into that. Being dull of hearing means that they had ears to hear but they just cannot make out what is trying to be shared. The second thing to note in this particular passage is that the need of milk is for those who are dull of hearing. In other words, the milk wasn't really helping them any and they needed to begin again where they

should have been established and so they needed to have more milk. Milk, by the way is predigested food. If you just think about how milk is made. A cow eats grass and hay, digests it and then it makes milk. So milk is predigested food. It doesn't take a lot of digestive juices to assimilate milk. When you think about a little baby having milk, his digestive system is not mature yet. But anyway, the milk is needed. Another thing too is that the word 'strong meat' is two words. This word 'strong' is 'solid'. You need some solid, not meat as such, but food. And I make the distinction here that this is solid food because the solid food does not come from a side of a cow. Okay? This is not talking about steak off of an animal. This is talking about solid food and in the context; it's the solid food in milk. That's the point, okay. Now, he tells on in verses twelve and fourteen, you need the basics.

FIRST ELEMENTS - MILK

Hebrews 5:12-14 "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the **first principles** (basics, 2 pet. 3:12) of the oracles of God; and are become such **as have need of milk**, and **not of strong** [solid] **meat** [food (from the milk)]."

This is the word 'basics' in Second Peter chapter three, verse twelve when it talks about the 'elements.' When the earth catches fire, the elements, the basic fundamentals in which the earth is made up of, will melt. So it has to do with the elementary, the basic, and the lowest form of spiritual food so to speak in this sense. You need the principles of the oracles of God and not solid food. And again this food, I believe comes from the milk and not from a cut of steak off the animal. Now, what is milk? Well, First Corinthians chapter three helps us to understand whom the milk is for

MILK NOT MEAT

1 Corinthians 3:1-3 "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, *even* as unto babes in Christ. **2. I have fed you with milk** (predigested food), and **not with meat** [victuals]: for hitherto ye were **not able to bear it**, neither yet now are ye able. **3. For ye are yet carnal**: for whereas *there is* among you **envying**, and **strife**, and **divisions**, are ye not **carnal**, and **walk as men**?"

This word 'meat' here is a different word than found in Hebrews but it has the same thought, 'solid food.' And the reason why these needed milk is because they were carnal. Carnal Christians need milk. Because the milk of the Word, teaches you to quit being carnal, quit being in the flesh, quit ministering to the things of the flesh. In fact, it continues here, he says he fed them with milk because they were not able to bear the strong food or the victuals, the meat. 'Envy, strife and division' – these are characteristics of babes. A child envies his playmates what? Toys! He gets tired of his own toys and he wants his playmates toys. He wants his sisters or his brothers toys, so what does he do? He jerks them away, if he's strong enough to do so. And there is strife! Bickering! Fighting! Divisions! I'm not going to play with you anymore, type of thing, you know. You know, that happens in churches today, divisions! And so the kind of food that theses people need is milk and it tells us to not envy one another, not to struggle with one another and not to go off in a huff against one another. That's what the milk teaches. In fact in First Corinthians chapter two verse two it says

MILK

1 Corinthians 2:2 "For I determined not to know any thing among you, save **Jesus Christ, and him crucified.**" (but not the resurrection)

That's the milk of the word as well. And notice, this verse is not even talking about the resurrection, it's just talking about 'I determine not to know anything among you, save the plan

of salvation!' The resurrection message came in the fifteenth chapter of First Corinthians. You know, a dozen chapters away or better! Now, I want us to be aware of the fact that we have the whole Bible and then in the Bible is the Word of God and we see that in the word, 'truth.'

TRUTH

1 Timothy 2:4 "Who will have **all men** to be **saved**, and **to come** unto the **knowledge** [ἐπιγνοσις] of **the truth** (scriptures)."

'Saved' – I believe this has to do with the common salvation, that's the reason why Jesus Christ died for all. And not only for them to be saved but come unto the 'knowledge' and this word 'knowledge' is ἐπιγνοσις. Ἐπιγνοσις means knowledge upon knowledge – a working knowledge of proof. Now, the King James included the word 'the', but this word 'the' is not there. What this is saying is that God wants all of us to be saved and to have a working knowledge of the Bible, the scriptures. But when it comes to 'the truth,' it's a different story. Let's continue here. In Luke chapter twenty-four, verse twenty-seven it says

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

Luke 24:27 "And beginning at **Moses** and **all the prophets**, he expounded unto them in all the **scriptures** the things concerning himself."

Truth has to do with the scriptures

MOSES, PROPHETS, PSALMS

Luke 24:44-45 "And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, concerning me. **45.** Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the **scriptures**,"

Notice that the scriptures include the Law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms. We know that they also included historical books as well and of course, the prophetic books had to do with those that were prophets. First Samuel is a historical book and Samuel was a prophet. So the scriptures is what we need to appreciate, it contains everything. It is not 'the truth', but truth. I want you to get that distinction. We're talking about truth here and not 'the' truth. There's a difference and I want you to get that.

WRITTEN AFORETIME

Romans 15:4 "For whatsoever things were **written aforetime** were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the **scriptures** might have hope."

So, we're talking about the scriptures. Paul when he went to the synagogues, what did he use? Well, of course he used the Word of God too, but he reasoned with them out of the scriptures

REASONED OUT OF THE SCRIPTURES

Acts 17:2 "And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them (synagogue of the Jews), and three Sabbath days **reasoned** with them **out of the scriptures**,"

That is out of the Law of Moses, and so he used the scriptures.

ALL SCRIPTURE, OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT

2 Timothy 3:16-17 "**All scripture** is given by inspiration of God, and is **profitable** for **doctrine**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **instruction** in righteousness (right living): **17.** That the **man of God** may be perfect [complete], thoroughly **furnished** unto all **good works**."

ALL scriptures are good but in contrast to the scriptures or truth, is 'the truth'. And we see that in the next two passages that I have here. John sixteen thirteen

IN CONTRAST, THE TRUTH

John 16:13 "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of [the] **truth**, is come, he will guide you into all [the] **truth**: . . . he will show you **things to come**."

What does 'the truth' have to do with? What does the mysteries of the Kingdom of God have to do with? Things to come! And it's interesting, it's not in our notes, but I want to share it with you anyway and we'll get into it at another times but, in the passage in Hebrews chapter five, Paul says I'd like to talk to you about Melchisedec. But I'm having a hard time doing that because you can't hear very well; because Melchisedec was a high priest concerning what? Good things to come. And so 'the truth' pertains to things to come.

JESUS PREACHED THE TRUTH

John 18:37 ". . . for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto **the truth** [kingdom mysteries]. Every one that is of **the truth** heareth [present active] my voice." (has ears to hear)

What was Jesus preaching? Repent ye for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. He was preaching the Word of God; He was preaching 'the truth.' And He was using the scriptures to support His ministry because 'the truth' is in truth or in the scriptures. So He said, 'I should bear witness unto 'the truth'. Everyone that is of 'the truth' heareth my voice, present active. And notice that if they ear His voice, they have ears to hear – absolutely, they have ears to hear. So what are the mysteries of the Kingdom of God? Who are they for? They are for those who have ears to hear. So we have a distinction here. And the distinction is 'the truth' which is the scriptures and in the scriptures we have the Word of God, which is for those who have ears to hear. It's included in it. It's just like milk. The milk of the Word which we all need, and it's like the milk of the Word is the scriptures. Then in the milk we find butter, that we need to be able to discern between good and evil. But let's go on to show the fact that there are some things that are hidden. And one of the things that are hidden is of course, the butter. When you look at milk, you don't see butter. It just looks like; you know if it's cold, it's nice, but anyway, you just don't see the butter, it's in there though. So there are some things that are hidden and one of the things that are hidden in milk is butter.

SOME THINGS WERE HIDDEN

Luke 10:21-23 "In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast **hid these things** from the wise and prudent, and **hast revealed them** unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight. 22. All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and *he* to whom the Son will reveal *him*. 23. And he turned him unto *his* disciples, and said **privately**, Blessed *are* the eyes which see the things that ye see:"

Notice that the revelation of the Father is done by the Son and it is done by Him by special choice. He doesn't do it to everybody. The Father is not revealed to everybody. Even though people pray, "Our Father which art in heaven", they pray that prayer, there's a difference in the Father being revealed and just reading the name of the word, Father, on a piece of paper out of the Bible. Now, let's continue. This is private information. This information is for you and it's not for them. Some things are hidden and even the truth pertaining to Him or Jesus being the Son, has to be revealed. That's private information as well. So, it says 'Blessed are the eyes which see these things that ye see.' They had eyes to see and not only that; they had ears to hear as well. Paul says

HID FROM AGES

Colossians 1:26 "Even the mystery which hath been **hid from ages** and from generations, but now is **made manifest** to his **saints**:"

There are some things, which have just been hidden and are being revealed.

MYSTERY MADE KNOWN

Ephesians 3:3-6 "How that by revelation he made known unto me the **mystery**; (as I wrote afore in few words, 4. Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the **mystery** of Christ) 5. Which in other ages was **not made known** unto the sons of men, as it is **now revealed** unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; 6. That the **Gentiles** should be **fellowheirs** (in the heavens), and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:"

Notice who is it that reveals 'the truth'? It's the Spirit that reveals 'the truth'. And I believe this is the Holy Spirit's ministry. "That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs" and this is not talking about fellow heirs here on the earth. This is talking about fellow heirs in heaven. Gentiles were given seed, an inheritance among the tribes in which they dwelt. And you find that in Ezekiel forty-seven twenty-three

INHERITANCE ON EARTH

Ezekiel 47:23 "And it shall come to pass, *that* in what tribe the stranger sojourneth, there shall ye give *him* his inheritance, saith the Lord GOD."

So the Gentiles had always been able to be saved to begin with. Secondly, they always had an inheritance in the land or among the tribe in which they dwelt, but when it came to a heavenly inheritance, there was a time when the Gentiles were not included. This is the mystery of the Kingdom of God - the Kingdom of the Heavens, the ruling and reigning from the heavens. So the Gentiles are the fellow heirs of the same body and partakers of His promise in Christ by the Gospel. The parables were given to hide truth, which we've already seen

HIDDEN IN PARABLES

Matthew 13:10-11 "And the disciples came, and said unto him, **Why speakest thou unto them in parables?** 11. He answered and said unto them, Because **it is given unto you to know** the **mysteries** of the kingdom of heaven, but **to them it is not given.**"

That was hidden from them. And of course we have already read from Luke chapter eight that it was the mysteries of the Kingdom of God that were given to those who had ears to hear.

THE WORD OF GOD

Luke 8:8-11 ". . . when he had said these things, he cried, **He that hath ears** to hear, **let him hear.** 9. And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be? 10. And he said, Unto you it is given to know **the mysteries of the kingdom of God**: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand. 11. Now the parable is this: **The seed** is the **word of God.**"

Now, 'strong meat,'- I've already alluded to the fact that the strong meat is solid food and that solid food comes out of the milk. The solid food is in the milk. It's not a piece of steak, it's not a piece of flesh, and that solid food comes out of the milk. In Isaiah chapter seven verses fourteen and fifteen

STRONG MEAT

Hebrews 5:14 "But **strong** [solid] **meat** [food] belongeth to them that are of **full age** (τελειος, perfect, mature), *even* those who **by reason** of **use** (of the milk) have their senses **exercised**

[γυμναζω, perfect tense, root word. naked] to **discern** both **good** and **evil**."

BUTTER HIDDEN IN MILK

Isaiah 7:14-15 "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a **virgin** shall conceive, and **bear a son**, and shall call his name **Immanuel**. 15. **Butter** and **honey** shall he eat, that he may know to **refuse** the **evil**, and **choose** the **good**."

"Immanuel" – that is the Lord Jesus Christ. It's a prophecy from Isaiah. The passage I wasn't able to read was Hebrews chapter five verse fourteen. So I'm going to read it now, so you can tie in the 'refuse the evil and choose the good' of Isaiah chapter seven verse fifteen with the last phrase of this verse. Notice, it's the senses exercised that allow you to discern good and evil. Well, it's interesting the word 'exercised' – the root word is 'naked.' In other words, the word 'exercise' comes from the Greek root word meaning 'naked.' And what this is talking about is that when you're working hard and you're digging a ditch, what do you do? Well, if you're a man, you take your shirt off. And if it's still too hot, you take your undershirt off. So what this is talking about is to have your senses exercised to discern good and evil means you have to work hard enough that you need some relief from the heat. That's the idea that I get out of this. Exercising your senses is hard work to the point that you need some relief from the heat that you generate. Now, I'm not talking about heat literally here. I don't think this is talking about literal heat. But it's talking about to have your senses exercised; it means that it's hard work. That's what it means, okay. Now, what this means is the butter part of it

CHURN THE MILK TAKES SWEAT

Proverbs 30:33 "Surely the **churning** of **milk** bringeth forth **butter**,"

Now, we don't churn milk, we churn cream. If you churn milk, you're going to have to take off your shirt to make butter! You understand what I mean? It's going to take a lot of work churning milk to get butter out of it! That's the point I wanted you to see. But churning milk is what is needed to get the butter since we don't have any cream. There's no cream of the word. There is a sincere milk of the word, okay, in First Peter two, but the word 'sincere' is often translated 'unadulterated', not mixed with something else. In other words, it's strictly milk. But to get butter it takes a lot of work, particularly if you're churning milk. What is the process of making butter out of milk? Well, we find it in Isaiah twenty-eight verses nine and ten

KINGS SEARCH

Proverbs 25:2 "*It is* the glory of **God** to **conceal** a thing: but the **honour of kings is to search out a matter**."

MAKING BUTTER

Isaiah 28:9-10 "Whom shall he teach **knowledge**? (butter) and whom shall he make to understand **doctrine**? (butter) *them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.* 10. For **precept** (butter fat) *must be* upon **precept**, precept upon precept; **line** (butter fat) upon **line**, line upon line; **here a little** (butter fat), *and there a little* (butter fat):"

Precept is butter fat and you're going to take the precept and apply it to another piece of butter fat. And then it's precept upon precept – you've got to do it again and then you've got to find the line – another piece of butter fat and apply it to another line and you keep applying butter fat that's in the milk together until you get some clumps of butter and then it's here a little, there a little. This is the churning of milk. And also it takes more than just butter, you've got to have honey. And one passage of scripture in First Samuel fourteen, twenty-seven tells us that

IT ALSO TAKES HONEY

1 Samuel 14:27 "But Jonathan . . . put forth the end of the rod that was in his hand, and dipped it in an **honeycomb**, and put his hand to his mouth; and **his eyes were enlightened.**"

Honey speaks of enlightenment. You can have all the butter in the world but if you don't have any honey, it doesn't make sense, it doesn't come together. And so therefore, you've got to have honey as well.

OUR EYES MAY BE ENLIGHTENED

Ephesians 1:15-18 ". . . after I heard of your **faith** in the Lord Jesus, and **love** unto all the saints, **16.** Cease not to . . . making mention of you in my prayers; **17.** That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the **knowledge** [ἐπιγνώσις] of him: **18.** The **eyes** of your **understanding** [heart] being **enlightened**; that ye may know what is the **hope of his calling**, and what the riches of the glory of his **inheritance** in the **saints**,"

This is faith and love. This is not salvation. This is faith in that you're pleasing God and love which makes it work. If you don't have any love, faith doesn't work. Period! And it has to do with the saints. It's not loving the world; it's loving the saints. It's caring for the saints. It's ministering to the saints. It's ministering to the brethren. Let's go on. The hope of His calling is unto His Kingdom and glory. Jean was sharing with me what Spurgeon said, 'if you've got dirt in your heart, you got dust in your eyes.' That's pretty neat. You got dirt in your heart, you got dust in your eyes and you sure can't see when you have dust in your eyes. And so therefore we need our hearts enlightened. So that we may know what the hope of His calling is. In other words, be able to put it together and know what the riches of the glory of His inheritance is in the saints. So, we need to have enlightenment and honey. Now, I'm going to close with this. It's interesting that the disciples after the resurrection of the Lord, they were out by the Lake and they had some fish and they had some honeycomb.

THEY WERE EATING FISH AND HONEY

Luke 24:41-42 ". . . he said unto them, Have ye here any **meat**? **42.** And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an **honeycomb.**"

Broiled fish, solid food, victuals and honeycomb. To me it is very significant that the apostles were eating honey at the time because in verse forty-five it says

HE ENLIGHTENED THEM

Luke 24:45 "Then **opened** he their **understanding**, that they might **understand** the **scriptures**,"

Without enlightenment, without honey in your life, you cannot understand. And you know what? God has made provision for those who He has called unto His Kingdom and glory to be able to see. We just have to get down to having light clothing on. You know, I don't want to use this in terms of, I don't want you ladies to be left out because I want you ladies to feel that you need to be able to sweat it out even though you may not be bale to strip down! You need to know what it means to work hard to get the truth of the scriptures. We all need to have our senses exercised to discern that.

Father, I just pray that You bless the message to each of our hearts. Help us to appreciate the fact that You've given us ears to hear and eyes to see. We pray, Lord, You'd help us to be willing to put in the effort to churn the milk to get the butter that we might discern between the good and the evil. And choose the good and eschew the evil and that we might stand in Your

presence approved. Bless the message again, I pray to each of our hearts in Jesus Christ's name, amen.