

The Parable of the Tares

Matthew 13:34-58

The Parable of the Sower Matthew 13:1ff

Matthew 13:1 The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side.

2 And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.

3 And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; **4** And when he sowed, some [*seeds*] fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: **5** Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: **6** And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. **7** And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: **8** But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. **9** Who hath ears to hear, let him hear. **10** 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. **12** For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. **13** Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. **14** And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: **15** For this people's heart is waxed gross, and [*their*] ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with [*their*] eyes, and hear with [*their*] ears, and should understand with [*their*] heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. **16** But blessed [*are*] your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. **17** For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous [*men*] have desired to see [*those things*] which ye see, and have not seen [*them*]; and to hear [*those things*] which ye hear, and have not heard [*them*]. **18** Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. **19** When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth [*it*] not, then cometh the wicked [*one*], and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. **20** But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; **21** Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. **22** He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

Matthew 13:23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth [it]; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

Fruit in Scripture is always 2 things Souls and Christian character.

John 15: 1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. **2** Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every [*branch*] that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, **23** Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

From the different portions of fruit produced by the good ground, “some a hundred, sixty, and thirty” fold we may learn that not all sound in the faith believers are equally fruitful. They all hear the word of God, understand, and bring forth fruit, but not in the same amount. The different degrees are partly, by their situation and circumstances in life not allowing them opportunities of receiving and doing good; and, partly, by lack of mental capacity - for every mind is not equally improvable. In soul winning much has to do with experience of the individual more than educational degrees.

This week a great Professor at a well-respected brotherhood University gave me a half a dozen reasons our Radio Broadcasts would not work for them ...

Had I had the brother under affirmation in the witness box I would have asked him first how many people he has personally disciplined and baptized into Christ?

Great book learning and degrees are often Twiddle D.D.'s in soul winning. On the other had under cross examination: I would be forced to admit he would merit an A+ in Christian Character while my grade would be barley passing.

Matthew 13:24 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

God's method of managing the affairs of the world, and the Church is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field. The world may be termed the field of God. Particularly, those who profess to believe in God through Christ are his field or farm; among whom God sows nothing but the pure unadulterated word of His truth.

Matthew 13:25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

But while men slept ... When the Professors were lukewarm, then when worldly successful businessmen are appointed to the Eldership they then become Bishops instead of shepherds; men become ministers instead of evangelists ... then His enemy came and sowed tares, ζιζανία darnel, degenerate, or bastard wheat. The righteous and the wicked are always mingled in the Churches of Christ ... and with today's "change movement" whole congregations are fake, false, counterfeit disciples of Christ.

Regarding Darnel Wikipedia says: "Darnel usually grows in the same production zones as wheat and is considered a weed. The similarity between these two plants is so great that in some regions, darnel is referred to as "false wheat" The French word for darnel is *ivraie* (from Latin *ebriacus*, intoxicated), which expresses the drunken nausea from eating the infected plant, which can be fatal. The French name echoes the scientific name, Latin *temulentus* "drunk."

The darnel counterfeit wheat are whose hearts are not right with God. He who sows this bastard wheat among God's people is here styled God's enemy; and he may be considered also as a sower of them who permits them to be sown and to spring up through his negligence. Woe to the elders, shepherds, deacons, preachers, evangelists and ministers who permit the souls under their care to be offended, driven off, or corrupted by error or unsound teaching.

Christ seems to refer, first, to the origin of evil. God sowed good seed in his field; made man in his own image and likeness: but the enemy, the devil, Matthew 13:39 corrupted this good seed, and caused it to degenerate.

Christ also refers to the state in which the Church in the world shall be found, when he comes to judge it. The righteous and the wicked shall be permitted to grow together, till Christ comes to make a full and final separation.

Matthew 13:26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

Satan has a shoot of iniquity for every shoot of grace; and, when God revives His work, Satan revives his also. No marvel, therefore, if we find scandals arising suddenly to discredit a work of grace ...

Matthew 13:27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?

A faithful and vigilant evangelist of Christ fails not to discover the evil, to lament it, and to come to God by prayer, in order to find out the cause of it, and to receive from Him proper guidance on what to do ...

Matthew 13:28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?

An enemy hath done this ... It is the interest of Satan to introduce hypocrites and wicked persons into not only the Churches of Christ but into denominations in order to discredit the work of God, and to favor his own designs.

Matthew 7: 15-20 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. 16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? 17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither [*can*] a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. 19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. 20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

I Timothy 4: 1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

II Timothy 3:1-5 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good. 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

II Peter 2: 1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

II Peter 3: 3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, 4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as [*they were*] from the beginning of the creation.

Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? ... A zeal which is rash to run-em-outa-here and dis-fellowship-em quick is as much to be feared as the total lack of discipline.

Matthew 13:29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

But he said, Nay ... God judges quite otherwise than men of this mixture of good and evil in the Church. He knows the good which He intends to produce from it, and how far His patience and longsuffering towards the wicked should extend. Some may be converted, or some of this will lead to the farther sanctification of the righteous.

I Corinthians 11: 18-19 For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it. 19 For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.

Men often persecute a true Christian, while they intend only to prosecute the wicked.

Matthew 13:30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

Let both grow together ... Though every evangelist, preacher or minister of God should separate from the Church of Christ every incorrigible unrepentant sinner according to Matthew 18:15ff.

Yet he should proceed no farther, the person is not to be persecuted in their body or goods, because he is not considered sound in the faith God tolerates him; so should men ... those who burned William Tyndale at the stake in 1536 for translating the Holy Bible into English were tares themselves who "rooted up also the wheat"

Matthew 13:31 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field:

The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed ... This parable is a representation of the progress of the Gospel in the world; and of the growth of

grace in the soul. That desire which leads the soul to the glory of God may begin, and often does, in a single good desire - a wish to escape hell, or a desire to spend eternity with God and the redeemed in heaven.

Matthew 13:32 Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.

Which indeed is the least of all seeds ... That is, of all those seeds which produce plants, with stems and branches, according to botanists ...

Becometh a tree ... That is, it is not only the largest of plants which are produced from such small seeds, in warm climates, we are told it grows to an almost incredible size.

Matthew 13:33 Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened

The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven ... the property of leaven is to change, or assimilate to its own nature, the meal or dough with which it is mixed ... so the property of the grace of Christ is to change the whole soul into its own likeness and God intends that this principle should continue in the soul till all is leavened ... till the whole life bears the image of the heavenly.

Both these parables are prophetic, and were intended to show, principally, how, from very small beginnings, the Churches of Christ should pervade all the nations of the world, and fill them with the righteousness of God and true holiness.

Matthew 13:34 All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them:

Christ uses parables in order to raise our minds, from and through natural things. Divine things cannot be taught to us except by the use of earthly things.

Matthew 13:35 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.

Psalms 78:2 I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old:

Matthew 13:36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field.

Circumstances of this kind should not pass unnoticed. Those who listen only to the public preaching of the Gospel are not likely to understand completely the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven. A man must come to God by meditation on the word and inquiry by frequent, fervent, secret prayer.

What is the cause of Evil in the world?

God, who is infinite in holiness, purity, and goodness, could not have done it. Nothing can produce what is not in itself. This is a maxim God then could not have produced sin, forasmuch as his nature is infinite goodness and holiness. He made man at first in his own image, a reflection of his own purity: and, since sin entered into the world, He has done everything consistent with his own perfections, and the freedom of the human mind, to drive it out, and to make and keep man holy.

After a thousand volumes are written on the origin of evil, we shall just know as much of it as Christ has told us here:

An enemy hath done it, and this enemy is the devil. -

- This enemy is represented as deceitful: a friend in appearance, soliciting to sin, by pleasure, honor, riches, power and wickedness
- A vigilant enemy. While men sleep he watches.
- A hidden or secret enemy. After having sown his seed, he disappears. If the devil should appear as himself, few would sin; but he is discovered in evil thoughts, unholy desires, flattering discourses, bad books, pictures and movies.

**This guy is Sneaky and slick!! He HAS to be!
Otherwise, how would he get us to do this sin?**

Why was evil permitted to enter into the world?

- There are doubtless sufficient reasons in the Divine Mind for its permission; which, connected with his infinite essence, and extending to eternity, are not only unfathomable by us, but also, from their nature, incommunicable to men.

But why does he suffer this mixture of the good and bad seed now?

- Because of the necessary dependence of one part of the creation on the other.

Matthew 13:37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;

Matthew 13:38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked [one];

... the children of the kingdom; ... a seed of God's sowing. As to their persons, they shall be like the sun. Their place shall be the Kingdom of Heaven.

Matthew 13:39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

After a thousand volumes are written on the origin of evil, we shall just know as much of it as Christ told here – An enemy hath done it, and this enemy is the devil.

Matthew 13:40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

Observe the end of the present state of things: the wicked shall be punished, and the righteous rewarded. Observe the place in which the wicked shall be punished, -- a FURNACE. The instrument of this punishment, FIRE.

Matthew 13:41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

For those supposed to be the very worst of criminals.

Matthew 13:42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

The effect of it, DESPAIR; weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 13:43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

The Object of it, God in the relation of Father.

Daniel 12:2-3 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame [and] everlasting contempt. 3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

Matthew 13:44 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

Again means this parable is just like the others we have been studying.

Kingdom of heaven = the Church

This parable, understood in the traditional way, often brings many to a feeling of guilt because who of us can possibly say: We have sold all we have for the Kingdom of Heaven?

In this context, consider

Luke 17:10 So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.

Matthew 13:44 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

(A) In V: 44, Again ... tells us this parable is like the proceeding parables in this chapter.

(B) The Kingdom of Heaven is the church.

Matthew 16:13-19 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? 14 And they said, Some [*say that thou art*] John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. 15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? 16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. 17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed [*it*] unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. 18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

The church of CHRIST is the people of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

(C) The treasure is YOU – personally!

Exodus 19:5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth [*is*] mine:

Matthew 13:38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked [*one*];

(D) A field is the world. V: 38 and

John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

Matthew 13:37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;

(E) A man is JESUS! V: 37.

(F) found is JESUS' purpose in coming into the world.

Isaiah 65:1 I am sought of [*them that*] asked not [*for me*]; I am found of [*them that*] sought me not: I said, Behold me, behold me, unto a nation [*that*] was not called by my name.

Isaiah 27:5 Or let him take hold of my strength, [*that*] he may make peace with me; [*and*] he shall make peace with me.

Psalm 27:5 For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.

Psalm 31:19-20 [*Oh*] how great [*is*] thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; [*which*] thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men! 20 Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.

(G) He hideth – Does Jesus hide your soul?

Psalms 17:8 Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings,

(H) For the joy thereof – It was a joy for JESUS to go to the cross for you personally

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of [our] faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

because you are a treasure unto Him!

(I) Selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field” – What were you bought with. Look it up.

1 Peter 1:18-19 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, [as] silver and gold, from your vain conversation [received] by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

The precious blood of CHRIST – He sold all He had for you!

Once we understand that JESUS is better than man and this is what JESUS is like – not what I'm like.....then, we can begin to apply the traditional interpretation and try to give our all for the Kingdom. When we truly realize how much JESUS loves us, then we'll personally go into the vineyard and work. Matthew 21:28-29.

Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 16:19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Treasure: cf:

Exodus 19:5-6 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: 6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

A hidden treasure, not a pot or chest of money, but rather a gold or silver mine, which he who found out could not get at without digging. Not a pot of money, which he might have carried away with him very readily. He kept it secret and told the discovery to no person, till he had bought the field. ... the kingdom of heaven is the Church ... You ... you are a treasure after the salvation provided by the Gospel is applied to you.

Matthew 13:45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:

Eternal salvation from sin and its consequences is the supreme good that man.

Matthew 13:46 Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

By the blood of the covenant, buys gold tried in the fire, white raiment. We should consider the salvation of God, 1. As our only treasure, and value it above all the riches in the world. 2. Search for it in the Scriptures, till we full understand its worth and excellence ... and 6. Be always convinced that it must be bought and that no price is accepted for it but the blood of the covenant; the sufferings and death of our only Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Matthew 13:47 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:

A dragnet, or a sweep net. As this is dragged along it keeps gathering all in its way, both good and bad small ad great.

By ... the net ... may be understood the preaching of the Gospel of the Kingdom, which keeps drawing men into the profession of Christianity, and into the fellowship of the visible Church of Christ.

By ... the sea ... may be represented that abyss of sin, error, ignorance, and wickedness in which men live, and out of which they are drawn, by the truth and Spirit of God.

Matthew 13:48 Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.

drew to shore ... may be represented by the consummation of all things when a proper distinction shall be made between those who served God and those who served him not; for many shall doubtless be found who shall bear the name without the nature of Christ. By gathering ... the good ... and throwing away ... the bad ... is meant that separation which God shall make between false and true

professors, casting the former into hell, and bringing the later to heaven.

Matthew 13:49 So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,

The good from the bad, the grain from the chaff, the wheat from the tares, the followers of Jesus from those that turned their back on Him.

Matthew 13:50 And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 8:12 But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

I will have mercy, and not sacrifice ... Quoted from:

1 Samuel 15:22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD [*as great*] delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey [*is*] better than sacrifice, [*and*] to hearken than the fat of rams.

These are remarkable words. We may understand them as implying,

That God prefers an act of mercy, shown to the necessitous, to any act of religious worship to which the person might be called at that time. Both are good; but the former is the greater good, and should be done in preference to the other.

That the whole sacrificial system was intended only to point out the infinite mercy of God to fallen man, in his redemption by the blood of the new covenant. And

That we should not rest in the sacrifices, but look for the mercy and salvation prefigured by them. This saying was nervously translated by our ancestors, I will mild-heartedness, and not sacrifice.

Matthew 13:51 Jesus saith unto them, Have ye understood all these things? They say unto him, Yea, Lord.

Divine truths must not be lightly passed over - Our Lord's question here shows them to be matters of the utmost weight and importance; and that they should be considered again and again, till they be thoroughly understood.

Matthew 13:52 Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe [which is] instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man [that is] an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure [things] new and old.

... every scribe ... meaning Minister of Christ: who is instructed - taught of God; in the kingdom of heaven - in the mysteries of the Gospel of Christ. - his granary or store-house; things new and old - a Jewish phrase for great plenty. A small degree of knowledge is not sufficient for a preacher of the Gospel. The sacred writings should be his treasure, and he should properly understand them. His knowledge does not consist in being furnished with a great variety of human learning, (though of this he should acquire as much as he can); but his knowledge consists in being well instructed in the things concerning the kingdom of heaven, and the art of conducting men thither. A preacher whose mind is well stored with Divine truths, and who has a sound judgment, will suit his preaching to the circumstances and conditions of his hearers. He who preaches the same sermon to every congregation, gives the fullest proof that, however well he may speak, he is not a scribe who is instructed in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 13:53 And it came to pass, [that] when Jesus had finished these parables, he departed thence.

Matthew 13:54 And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this [man] this wisdom, and [these] mighty works?

And when he was come into his own country ... Probably Nazareth, where his parents lived, and where he had continued till his thirtieth year, though it appears he had a lodging in Peter's house at Capernaum.

... they were astonished ... It appears, hence, that our blessed Lord had lived in obscurity all the time above specified; for his countrymen appear not to have heard his doctrines, nor seen his miracles, until now. It is a melancholy truth, that those who should know Christ best are often the most ignorant of himself, the doctrines of his word, and the operations of his Spirit.

Matthew 13:55 Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?

Is not this the carpenter's son? ... Seven copies of the old Itala have, Is not this the son of Joseph the carpenter? But it is likely our Lord, during the thirty years of his abode at Nazareth, wrought at the same trade with Joseph; and perhaps this is what is intended.

Luke 2:51 And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

He went down with them (his parents) to Nazareth, and was Subject unto them. An honest trade is no discredit to any man. He who spends his time in idleness is fit for any business in which the devil chooses to employ him.

Is not his mother ... Mary, and his brethren, James, etc. ... This insulting question seems to intimate that our Lord's family was a very obscure one; and that they were of small repute among their neighbors, except for their piety.

It is possible that brethren and sisters may mean here near relations, as the words are used among the Hebrews in this latitude of meaning; but I confess it does not appear to me likely. Why should the children of another family be brought in here to share a reproach which it is evident was designed for Joseph the carpenter, Mary his wife, Jesus their son, and their other children? Prejudice apart, would not any person of plain common sense suppose, from this account, that these were the children of Joseph and Mary, and the brothers and sisters of our Lord, according to the flesh? It seems odd that this should be doubted; but, through an unaccountable prejudice, Papists and Protestants are determined to maintain as a doctrine, that on which the Scriptures are totally silent, viz. the perpetual virginity of the mother of our Lord. Cf:

Matthew 1:25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

Matthew 13:56 And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this [man] all these things?

Matthew 13:57 And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.

And they were offended in him ... They took offense at him, εσκανδαλιζοντο εν αυτω, making the meanness of his family the reason why they would not receive him as a prophet, though they were astonished at his wisdom, and at his miracles,

Matthew 13:54 And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this [*man*] this wisdom, and [*these*] mighty works?

So their pride and their envy were the causes of their destruction.

... A prophet is not without honor ... This seems to have been a proverbial mode of speech, generally true, but not without some exceptions. The apparent meanness of our Lord was one pretense why they rejected him; and yet, God manifested in the flesh, humbling himself to the condition of a servant, and to the death of the cross, is the only foundation for the salvation of a lost world. Perhaps our Lord means, by prophet, in this place, himself alone, as if he had said, My ministry is more generally reputed, and my doctrine better received, in any other part of the land than in my own country, among my own relatives; because, knowing the obscurity of my birth, they can scarcely suppose that I have these things from heaven.

Matthew 13:58 And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief - Δυναμεις, miracles. So the word is used,

Matthew 7:22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

Matthew 11:20 Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not:

Acts 19:11 And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul:

1 Corinthians 12:28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

Galatians 3:5 He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, [*doeth he it*] by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

Hebrews 2:4 God also bearing [*them*] witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

The Septuagint translates *niphleoth el*, the miraculous works of God.

Sources: KJV, theWord.com, Clarke's Coffman's & Johnsons Commentary