

# PARABLE OF THE HOUSEHOLD TREASURE

## MATTHEW 13:52

### LESSON 10



#### WELCOME

What is something you value that you enjoy sharing with others (e.g. a possession, a skill, a memory, etc.)?

#### BACKGROUND

Jesus often used teachers of religious law as examples to instruct His audience in the ways of His Kingdom. Those teachers, also known as scribes, “began as a noble group under the leadership of Ezra. Their purpose was to preserve the Law,<sup>1</sup> study it, and apply its truths to daily life. Over the years, their noble cause degenerated into a routine task of preserving traditions and man-made interpretations.”<sup>2</sup> Not only were they “trapped in the old and blind to the new,”<sup>3</sup> they also added extra commands to the Law that made it excessively burdensome to follow.<sup>4</sup>

Jesus had something else in mind for the disciples of His Kingdom. In this short parable, Jesus reminded His hearers that He didn’t come to do away with the Old Testament Law but to fulfill its requirements once and for all.<sup>5</sup> Through this fulfillment, He validated the Law’s authority and purpose as well as brought new teaching and ways of living. As Jesus’ disciples grew in their understanding of the old and new ways of His Kingdom, they were called to not only live it out but to also teach it to others.

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<sup>1</sup> The Old Testament Law is the first five books of the Old Testament (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy). The Law was given to the Jewish people to show them how to live as God’s people.

<sup>2</sup> Wiersbe, Warren W. *Be Loyal: Following the King of Kings*. David C Cook, 2008. 114

<sup>3</sup> *Life Application Study Bible: New Living Translation*. Tyndale House Publishers, 2007. 76

<sup>4</sup> **Luke 11:46–52**

<sup>5</sup> **Matthew 5:17**



## WORD

*As you come to the Word, pause and ask God to make it come alive for you.*

**Context:** Jesus had just spent a considerable amount of time sharing parables and explaining truths about the Kingdom of Heaven with His listeners as recorded in **Matthew 13**. As He brought this series of teachings to a close, Jesus asked His disciples the following question, “Do you understand all these things?” and they responded, “Yes, we do.”<sup>6</sup>

### **Matthew 13:52**

*“Then he added, “Every teacher of religious law who becomes a disciple in the Kingdom of Heaven is like a homeowner who brings from his storeroom new gems of truth as well as old.”*

1. In this parable, what had the teachers of religious law become?
2. Who did Jesus compare these teachers of religious law to?
3. What was the homeowner described as doing?
4. What do you think Jesus was referring to when He described “new gems of truth as well as old”?

How does the following passage shed light on Jesus’ attitude toward the Old Testament Law?

*“Don’t misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to*

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<sup>6</sup> **Matthew 13:51**

*accomplish their purpose. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God's law will disappear until its purpose is achieved. So if you ignore the least commandment and teach others to do the same, you will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But anyone who obeys God's laws and teaches them will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven."*

**Matthew 5:17–19**

5. As followers of Jesus, we are no longer commanded to follow the laws of the Old Testament,<sup>7</sup> and yet there are many principles from the Old Testament that still apply to our lives today. Read through these Scripture passages and underline some of the old gems of truth Jesus shared from His "storeroom" of Old Testament principles:

- a. In **Matthew 22:35–40** Jesus quoted **Deuteronomy 6:5**  
*"One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap him with this question: "Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?" Jesus replied, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."*
- b. In **Matthew 4:3–4** Jesus quoted **Deuteronomy 8:3**  
*During that time the devil came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread." But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"*
- c. In **Matthew 4:8–11** Jesus quoted **Deuteronomy 6:13**  
*Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. "I will give it all to you," he said, "if you will kneel down and worship*

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<sup>7</sup> Romans 7:6; Hebrews 8:7–8, 13

me.” “Get out of here, Satan,” Jesus told him. “For the Scriptures say, ‘You must worship the LORD your God and serve only him.’” Then the devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.

d. In **Matthew 15:3–6** Jesus quoted **Exodus 20:12**

*Jesus replied, “And why do you, by your traditions, violate the direct commandments of God? For instance, God says, ‘Honor your father and mother,’ and ‘Anyone who speaks disrespectfully of father or mother must be put to death.’ But you say it is all right for people to say to their parents, ‘Sorry, I can’t help you. For I have vowed to give to God what I would have given to you.’ In this way, you say they don’t need to honor their parents. And so you cancel the word of God for the sake of your own tradition.*

e. In **Matthew 19:3–6** Jesus quoted **Genesis 1:27; 2:24; 5:2**

*Some Pharisees came and tried to trap him with this question: “Should a man be allowed to divorce his wife for just any reason?”*

*“Haven’t you read the Scriptures?” Jesus replied. “They record that from the beginning ‘God made them male and female.’” And he said, “‘This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.’ Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together.”*

f. How can some of these old gems of truth carry significance for your life today?

6. Read the Scripture passages below and underline some of the new gems of truth Jesus shared from His “storeroom” with others.
- a. **Matthew 5:21–22**  
*“You have heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.’ But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment!”*
- b. **Matthew 5:27–28**  
*“You have heard the commandment that says, ‘You must not commit adultery.’ But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”*
- c. **Matthew 5:33–37**  
*“You have also heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not break your vows; you must carry out the vows you make to the LORD’ But I say, do not make any vows! Do not say, ‘By heaven!’ because heaven is God’s throne. And do not say, ‘By the earth!’ because the earth is his footstool. And do not say, ‘By Jerusalem!’ for Jerusalem is the city of the great King. Do not even say, ‘By my head!’ for you can’t turn one hair white or black. Just say a simple, ‘Yes, I will,’ or ‘No, I won’t.’ Anything beyond this is from the evil one.”*
- d. **Matthew 5:38–39**  
*“You have heard the law that says the punishment must match the injury: ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say, do not resist an evil person! If someone slaps you on the right cheek, offer the other cheek also.”*
- e. **Matthew 5:43–44**  
*“You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!”*

- f. How are some of these new gems of truth challenging you today?
- g. The teachers of religious law were blind to these new challenges Jesus presented. In what ways have you been “blind” or resistant to these challenges?
7. As you reflect on this “Kingdom Come” Bible study, what old (familiar or previously known) gems of truth have you been reminded of? (Before answering this question and the question below, you may want to revisit previous lessons as well as your summary notes on pages 116 and 117.)

Which new gems of truth have been added to your storeroom?

8. As mentioned in the context section of this lesson, this parable was Jesus' response to the disciples' answer that they understood His teachings on the Kingdom of Heaven.<sup>8</sup> Because of this, it appeared that Jesus was making a connection between His disciples and the teachers of religious law. Now that Jesus' disciples understood what He had taught them, they too, like the teachers of religious law, were called to teach others these Kingdom truths.

a. What thoughts or feelings come to mind when you think about yourself as someone who is called by Jesus to teach Kingdom truth to others?

b. What is a truth that you've learned from the "Kingdom Come" Bible study that you could share with someone else? (Look at question 7 for some ideas.)

c. With your group, brainstorm large and small ways to teach people about Jesus and living in the Kingdom of God.

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<sup>8</sup> Matthew 13:51

# ALLEGIANCE

*Relinquishing and surrendering our lives to the King with loyalty to Him alone.*

9. In **Matthew 12:9–14**, Jesus engaged in a discussion about the Sabbath with the Pharisees—the teachers of religious law. They were outraged that Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath. Their allegiance was so strongly directed toward man-made religious traditions and rules that they were blinded to the Kingdom truth that Jesus taught—people are more valuable than rules—and they were unwilling to follow Him.
  - a. Culturally, where have you seen man-made religious traditions or rules become an obstacle to people’s allegiance to Jesus?

- - b. Are there any man-made religious traditions in your life that may appear godly but actually make your journey with King Jesus harder?



## **INTEGRATION**

*Putting our intellectual understanding of the Kingdom into practice in every aspect of our lives.*

10. The gems Jesus referred to in **Matthew 13:52** weren't simply Scriptural truths that could be recited from memory, rather they were a wealth of cherished values—values that were being applied and fully integrated into the understanding, personality and very being of the disciples.<sup>9</sup>
  - a. Take a moment to reflect and ask Holy Spirit the following question: “What Scriptural truth from this study needs to make its way from my head to my heart and become part of my regular life experience?”
  - b. What is one action step you can take to integrate that truth and allow God to transform the way you live?

## **MISSION**

*Living out the Gospel and Kingdom values through faith-filled proclamation and demonstration.*

11. Jesus made it clear in the Great Commission that we are all called to be disciple-makers, teaching new disciples to obey His commands. It's not just for the pastors, or the evangelists, or the teachers; it's for all of us.

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<sup>9</sup> Gaebelain, Frank E., et al. *The Expositor's Bible Commentary with the New International Version of the Holy Bible*. Vol. 8, Zondervan Pub. House, 1984. 332

*“Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

**Matthew 28:18–20**

Think of the people in your relational networks (e.g. work, school, neighborhood, chess club, sports teams, etc.). Who might God be asking you to disciple in this season?<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> It may be that God is calling you to disciple someone who is not a Christian yet. It is important to know that building relationships, demonstrating acts of love and engaging in spiritual conversations with those who don't know Jesus is also discipleship.



## WORSHIP

***Take a moment to enter into a time of worship—both on your own and with your community—to show praise, adoration and love for God.***

*“For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.”*

**Matthew 13:17**

It’s easy to take for granted the tremendous revelation we have received from Jesus through His Word and Holy Spirit.

In response to this gift of revelation and as an act of worship, think of a way to creatively treasure a Kingdom truth you have received during the “Kingdom Come” Bible study. You may want to write out a Scripture that has been meaningful to you and frame it. There may be a parable that grabbed your attention that you would like to draw a picture of. Or maybe you’d like to donate money to an organization like Wycliffe Bible Translators so that others who are yet to receive this revelation of Jesus through His Word may have that opportunity. Whatever you decide to do, offer your response as an act of worship to King Jesus.

## CONVERSATION PROMPTS

***Consider using one of the conversation prompts this week to begin having a spiritual conversation with someone in your life.***

- What’s something you value that you like to share with others?
- What’s something you’ve learned and have taught to others?
- What gem of advice have you received in your life that you deeply value and also love to share with others?

## TAKE-AWAY SUMMARY

As you have worked through this lesson and listened to Holy Spirit, what is your one significant take-away?

Write a brief summary of your take-away on page 117 or take some time to review what you have learned throughout this study.

# SERMON NOTES

## Lesson 10

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, occupying most of the page. It is intended for the user to write their sermon notes for Lesson 10.

