

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

The Mysteries of the Kingdom

And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables?

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.

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.

Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing, see not; and hearing, they hear not, neither do they understand.

—Matthew 13:10-13.

It is stated in Webster's dictionary that a parable is: "A short fictitious narrative of a possible event in life or nature, from which a moral is drawn." In the frequent use of parables when talking with the multitudes, Christ Jesus was able to draw on characters and situations well known to His audiences, so that He could thus present a spiritual truth to them in a form that they could comprehend—at least to some extent. To most types of people, and particularly to the uneducated, the narrative or story is the most attractive and easily understood form of literature. The degree of comprehension as to the real meaning of the parable of course depends upon the degree of spiritual unfoldment of the individual.

The majority of the people to whom Christ Jesus spoke were not spiritually evolved enough to perceive the inner meaning of His parables. Hence to them it was not given "to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven." The Disciples, being more advanced, could know the "mysteries" and be impelled to live according to the deeper truths.

Among the deeper truths, or "mysteries of the kingdom of heaven" which Christ Jesus taught were the Laws of Rebirth and Consequence. These laws postulate the doctrine that man evolves in a slow process of development carried on with unwavering persistence through repeated embodiments in forms or bodies of increasing efficiency. Through this process all created beings will in time develop their latent potentialities into godlike powers. From life to life, each individual reaps what he has previously sown, good or bad, and under the guidance of the Recording Angels is placed in environments and with associates most suited for providing the opportunities for him to learn the necessary lessons, as well as to reap whatever destiny may be due from past actions.

"Whosoever hath" refers to one who has been diligent in the School of Life and has therefore unfolded his inner spiritual powers. He has taken advantage of the opportunities presented to him in his various lives and is therefore blessed with spiritual "abundance." "Whosoever hath not" has neglected his opportunities for serving and loving his fellowmen, and if he continues to neglect them will retrograde—"from him shall be taken away even that he hath."

The majority of the people of that day had lost the knowledge of the Law of Rebirth and also the Law of Consequence as applied to many lives, but they could understand an application of the latter as applied to the present life. Today more and more people are becoming able to see and hear spiritually, and are thus coming to know "the mysteries" which give the correct pattern for abundant life. Ere long the Western peoples will again accept the Laws of Rebirth and Consequence.

