

Matthew 13:52

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven (πᾶς γραμματεὺς μαθητευθεὶς τῇ βασιλείᾳ τῶν οὐρανῶν)—The γραμματεὺς (scribe) was an expert in Torah, but here Jesus redefines the role. The aorist passive participle μαθητευθεὶς ('having been discipled') shows these are not self-taught experts but those taught by Christ Himself. They are scribes transformed by kingdom instruction—a new kind of teacher who bridges Old and New Covenants.

Like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old (ὅστις ἐκβάλλει ἐκ τοῦ θησαυροῦ αὐτοῦ καινὰ καὶ παλαιά)—The οἰκοδεσπότης (householder, master of the house) has a θησαυρός (treasure-store) containing both καινὰ (fresh, unprecedented revelation—the kingdom mysteries) and παλαιά (ancient truth—the Old Testament). The verb ἐκβάλλει ('throws out, brings forth') suggests generous, purposeful distribution. This describes Matthew's own Gospel, which constantly shows Jesus fulfilling Old Testament prophecy while revealing new truth.

Historical Context

This final mini-parable concludes Jesus's day of kingdom parables, commissioning the disciples as the new interpreters of God's revelation. In Jewish culture, a

householder managed his estate's resources. Jesus pictures kingdom scribes as stewards who draw from both testaments, validating continuity with Israel's Scripture while introducing the new covenant. Matthew, a former tax collector turned apostle, exemplifies this model perfectly.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does your teaching or testimony draw from both Old Testament types and New Testament fulfillment?
2. In what ways does modern evangelicalism wrongly neglect 'the old things' in favor of novel teachings?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	δὲ	εἶπεν	αὐτοῦ	Διὰ	τοῦτο	πᾶς	γραμματεὺς
G3588	Then	said	he unto them	Therefore	G5124	every	scribe
	G1161	G2036	G846	G1223		G3956	G1122
μαθητευθεὶς	εἰς	τὴν	βασιλείαν	τῶν	οὐρανῶν	ὅμοιός	
which is instructed	unto	G3588	the kingdom	G3588	of heaven	like	
G3100	G1519		G932		G3772	G3664	
ἐστὶν	ἀνθρώπῳ	οἰκοδεσπότῃ	ὅστις	ἐκβάλλει	ἐκ		
is	unto a man	that is an householder	which	bringeth forth	out of		
G2076	G444	G3617	G3748	G1544	G1537		
τοῦ	θησαυροῦ	αὐτοῦ	καινὰ	καὶ	παλαιά		
G3588	treasure	he unto them	things new	and	old		
	G2344	G846	G2537	G2532	G3820		

Additional Cross-References

Titus 1:9 (Parallel theme): Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

Proverbs 15:7 (Parallel theme): The lips of the wise disperse knowledge: but the heart of the foolish doeth not so.

Matthew 12:35 (Parallel theme): A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

Ezra 7:21 (Kingdom): And I, even I Artaxerxes the king, do make a decree to all the treasurers which are beyond the river, that whatsoever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the law of the God of heaven, shall require of you, it be done speedily,

Ezra 7:10 (Parallel theme): For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.

Proverbs 18:4 (Parallel theme): The words of a man's mouth are as deep waters, and the wellspring of wisdom as a flowing brook.

Matthew 23:34 (Parallel theme): Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city:

Luke 11:49 (Parallel theme): Therefore also said the wisdom of God, I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they shall slay and persecute:

Colossians 1:7 (Parallel theme): As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ;

Colossians 3:16 (Parallel theme): Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

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