

MATTHEW 13

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER (13:1-23)

Blessed Jerome on what it means for us to be “good soil:”

“In the explanation of the good ground, he is the one who hears the word. First we must listen, then understand; after understanding, we must bear the fruits of good teaching and yield fruit either one hundredfold, sixtyfold or thirtyfold.”

THE PARABLES OF THE WHEAT AND TARES, MUSTARD SEED, AND LEAVEN (13:24-43)

Blessed Theophylact on parables and prophecy:

“Do not understand the prophecy in terms of cause and effect, but rather from the outcome of the event. For Christ did not teach in this manner in order to fulfill the prophecy, but rather, because He taught in parables, the word of the prophet is found in the outcome to have been fulfilled in Him...The Lord uttered those things which were hidden since the foundation of the world. For He Himself revealed to us the mysteries of the heavens.”

THE PARABLES OF THE HIDDEN TREASURE, PEARL OF GREAT PRICE, AND THE DRAGNET (13:44-52)

St. Gregory the Dialogist on the pearl of great price:

“He who has a clear knowledge of the sweetness of heavenly life gladly leaves behind all the things he loved on earth. Compared with that pearl, everything else fades in value. He forsakes those things he has gathered. His heart yearns for heavenly things, and nothing on earth pleases him. The allure of earthly things has now dissipated, for only the brilliance of that precious pearl dazzles his mind.”

CHRIST IS REJECTED IN NAZARETH (13:53-58)

St. Peter Chrysologus on why Christ did few mighty works in Nazareth:

“Power has no effect where unbelief does not deserve it. And while Christ does not demand a reward when He heals, He becomes indignant when injustice is shown to Him instead of honor.”

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Quote Sources: Manlio Simonetti, editor. *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture: Matthew 1a and 1b* (IVP)
Blessed Theophylact. *The Explanation by Blessed Theophylact of the Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew* (Chrysostom Press)

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