

## “WORD OF LIFE”

May 04, 2025

### 48. CHRIST IN HIS PERSON (28) – In the Parables of the New Testament

P – 27. The Lord in the Parables of Watching

P – 28. The Vinedresser in the Parable of the Unfruitful Fig Tree

Hymns: # 180 / # 214 / # 23

✚ “So that what was spoken through the prophet [Psa. 78:2] might be fulfilled, saying,  
‘I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things hidden from the foundation of the world’.” (Matt 13:35)

[Parable – Teaching to be watchful and faithful]

Luke 12:36 - And you be like men waiting for their own master when he returns from the wedding feast, so that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately.

Luke 12:37 - Blessed are those slaves whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. ...

Luke 12:43 - Blessed is that slave whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.

[Parable - Teaching concerning repentance]

Luke 13:6 - A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard. And he came seeking fruit on it and did not find any.

Luke 13:7 - And he said to the vinedresser, Behold, ...I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I have not found any. Cut it down therefore. Why does it also make the ground useless?

Luke 13:8 - But he answered and said to him, Master, leave ..., until I dig around it and throw on manure.

Luke 13:9 - And if it produces fruit in the future, good; otherwise, cut it down.

✚ “...He taught them many things in parables... (Mark 4:2)  
“...Why do You speak in parables to them? (Mat 13:10)  
“...And His disciples came to Him, saying, Make the parable ... clear to us. (Matt. 13:36)

❖ Christ, as the householder who will come back to be with us who are watchful (Luke 12:35-48).

- He will reward us according to how we been watching.

❖ Christ is the vinedresser in the parable of the unfruitful fig tree (Luke 13:6-9).

- God as the owner of the vineyard came in the Son to the Jewish people as to a fig tree (Matt. 21:19; Jer. 24:2, 5, 8).
- The fig tree was planted in God’s promised land as the vineyard (Matt. 21:33)
  - God the Father as the certain man seeks fruit from them, and He did not find any.
  - He wanted to cut them down, but the Son as the vinedresser prayed for them
    - that God the Father would tolerate them
    - until the Son died for them (dug the ground around the fig tree)
    - and gave them fertilizer (threw on manure),
    - hoping that they would then repent and produce fruit.
- But the Jews did not repent, even after the Lord Jesus died and resurrected and the Spirit came,
  - the “fig tree” was “cut down.”
  - This happened in A.D. 70 when Titus brought his Roman army to Jerusalem and destroyed the city.

✚ “And having the same spirit of faith according to that which is written,  
“I believed, therefore I spoke,” we also believe, therefore we also speak,” (2Cor. 4:13)

✚ We should be ready and be watchful, because at an hour when we do not expect it, the Son of Man is coming. As slaves we need to be watchful and faithful. Blessed are we whom our master, when he comes, will find us so doing. He will set us over all His possessions.

✚ Let us be watchful and faithful in carrying out the Lord’s commission. Otherwise, when the Lord comes back, He will find us not watching and not faithful. Then we shall lose the enjoyment of the jubilee in the coming age of the kingdom.

(Reference: The Conclusion of the New Testament Ch. 48 letter P – point 27 & 28)  
[Preparing this “word of life” (SUPPLYING THE WORD IN MEETINGS OF MUTUALITY) was motivated by:  
The Elder’s Training Book 8, Ch. 4, and The Administration of the Church and the Ministry of the Word, Ch. 11]

### Hymn 180

Praise of the Lord –  
His Worthiness

- 1 Jesus, our Lord,  
with what joy we adore Thee,  
Chanting our praise  
to Thyself on the throne!  
Blest in Thy presence,  
we worship before Thee,  
Own Thou art worthy,  
and worthy alone.

#### Chorus:

- Lord, Thou art worthy:  
Lord, Thou art worthy;  
Lord, Thou art worthy,  
and worthy alone!  
Blest in Thy presence,  
we worship before Thee,  
Own Thou art worthy,  
and worthy alone!
- 2 Verily God, yet become truly human,  
Lower than angels to die in our stead;  
How has that long promised  
“Seed of the woman”  
Trod on the serpent  
and bruised his head!
- 3 How didst Thou humble  
Thyself to be taken.  
Led by Thy creatures  
and nailed to the cross.  
Hated of men,  
and of God too forsaken,  
Shunning not darkness,  
the curse, and the loss.
- 4 How hast Thou triumphed,  
and triumphed with glory,  
Battled death’s forces,  
rolled back every wave!  
Can we refrain then  
from telling the story?  
Lord, Thou art Victor  
o’er death and the grave.

#### Rev 5:12 –

Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is  
the Lamb who has been slain to  
receive the power and riches and  
wisdom and strength and honor and  
glory and blessing.

### Hymn 214

Praise the Lord –  
Remembrance of Him

- 1 According to Thy gracious word,  
In meek humility,  
This will I do, my dying Lord,  
I will remember Thee.
- 2 Thy body, broken for my sake,  
My bread from heaven shall be;  
Thy testamental cup I take,  
And thus remember Thee.
- 3 Gethsemane can I forget?  
Or there Thy conflict see,  
Thine agony and bloody sweat,  
And not remember Thee?
- 4 When to the cross I turn mine eyes  
And rest on Calvary,  
O Lamb of God, my sacrifice,  
I must remember Thee-
- 5 Remember Thee and all Thy pains  
And all Thy love to me;  
Yea, while a breath,  
a pulse remains,  
I will remember Thee.
- 6 And when these failing lips  
grow dumb  
And mind and memory flee,  
When Thou shalt in  
Thy kingdom come,  
Jesus, remember me.

#### Phi 2:8 –

And being found in fashion as a man, He  
humbled Himself, becoming obedient  
even unto death, and that the death of a  
cross.

#### Phi 2:9 –

Therefore also God highly exalted Him  
and bestowed on Him the name which is  
above every name,

#### Phi 2:10 –

That in the name of Jesus every knee  
should bow, of those who are in heaven  
and on earth and under the earth,

#### Phi 2:11 –

And every tongue should openly confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of  
God the Father.

### Hymn 23

Worship of the Father –  
His Election

- 1 In all Thy wisdom, Father God,  
According to Thy will,  
Eternal purpose Thou hast made  
That all Thy Son might fill.

#### Chorus:

- How deep and rich Thy wisdom is,  
O who can search and trace?  
Yet, Father God, in it we find  
Thy mercy and Thy grace!
- 2 How wondrously  
Thou mad’st all things,  
O who can know Thy mind?  
All are of Thee, thru Thee, to Thee,  
Thy wisdom here we find.
- 3 Thy wisdom shuts up all in sin,  
That mercy may be shown,  
That none may boast in anything  
But in Thyself alone.
- 4 In wisdom, by the cross, Thou hast  
For us redemption made,  
That in our spirit we may have  
Thyself, the treasure, laid.
- 5 Thy wisdom thru  
Thy Church is known  
By principalities,  
Thru us Thy wisdom manifold  
Shown in the heavenlies.
- 6 When in the new Jerusalem  
In mercy we will boast,  
Thy wisdom will be known for aye  
Unto the uttermost.

#### Eph 3:10 –

In order that now to the rulers and the  
authorities in the heavenlies the  
multifarious wisdom of God might  
be made known through the church,

#### Eph 3:11 –

According to the eternal purpose  
which He made in Christ Jesus our  
Lord,