

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** Seven Sacred Secrets

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Matthew 13:3-51

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #2057

We are grateful for the opportunity to provide this outline produced from a sermon preached by Adrian Rogers while serving as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. This outline is intended for your personal, non-commercial use.

In order to ensure our ability to be good stewards of Adrian Rogers' messages, Love Worth Finding has reserved all rights to this content.

Except for your personal, non-commercial use and except for brief quotations in printed reviews, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means –electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other– without the prior permission of the publisher.

Copyright ©2024 Love Worth Finding Ministries, Inc.

1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Matthew 13 contains mysteries of the kingdom of Heaven.
  - i) We call them mysteries because Jesus called them mysteries.
  - ii) Jesus was speaking in parables.
    - (1) He was asked why He spoke in parables, and He answered in Matthew 13:11.
- b) The Bible is a mystery story to those who do not know the Lord, to those who are not saved.
  - i) They do not have the Holy Spirit inside of them to illumine them and interpret the Word of God.
    - (1) They may know facts.
      - (a) They may be able to name the kings of Israel.
      - (b) They may be able to give a Bible chronology.
    - (2) But they do not understand the deep things of God.
- c) There are sacred secrets that God reveals to His children through His Word.
  - i) These are the strange mysteries of the kingdom of Heaven.
  - ii) The Bible is to the child of God who prays, who has the illumination of the Holy Spirit, and who obeys the Word of God, a teaching ministry that the unsaved know nothing about.
- d) There are seven parables in Matthew 13.
  - i) Seven, being the perfect number, means that they have a certain completion to them.
  - ii) They are all-embracing.
  - iii) They talk about the history of the Gospel of Jesus.
  - iv) They begin with a time when Jesus was here on Earth and began to preach the Gospel to the very end of the age and the final judgment.
    - (1) Everything that happened from the time that Jesus was here until Jesus comes again is comprised in these seven parables.
- e) When we understand these parables, we know what to expect.
  - i) If we know what to expect, then we will not be disillusioned, disappointed, or discouraged.
    - (1) We will not drop out.
  - ii) When things look dark or bad, we see that it is exactly as Jesus said it would be like.
    - (1) If it gets dark, then we can say that it is getting gloriously dark.
- f) Sometimes we see the world with its wickedness, the church with its weakness, people refusing the Gospel, and we think that maybe the Gospel is not true or that our expectations will not be fulfilled.
  - i) But when we read Matthew 13, we see that everything is precisely on track.
- g) In today's message, we will look at seven things that we can expect to happen.

- 2) EXPECT MANY TO REJECT THE GOSPEL (MATTHEW 13:3-9)
- a) Don't get the idea that if Jesus Christ is presented with all of His winsomeness and beauty that people will fall all over themselves coming to know Him.
    - i) If we believe that, then we will have false expectations and be disappointed.
    - ii) Some may think that all we need to do is to clearly teach how to be saved.
      - (1) They think that is all people need.
        - (a) If they just had light, then they would be saved.
    - iii) We can clearly and plainly articulate Jesus Christ, and people will still reject Him.
  - b) Jesus knew the hardness of human hearts, so He gave us the Parable of the Sower.
    - i) Matthew 13:3-9
    - ii) There are four kinds of soil upon which the good seed (the Gospel message) falls:
      - (1) Some fell by the wayside.
        - (a) Matthew 13:19
        - (b) The wayside is the path through the field.
        - (c) Because it had been trampled hard, the seed would get down, but it could not get in.
          - (i) It fell on hard ground.
        - (d) The birds came and devoured the seed.
        - (e) The hearts of the wayside crowd are hard.
          - (i) They don't hear the Gospel.
            1. It never gets in because their hearts have been trampled by the cares of this world.
      - (2) Some fell on stony ground.
        - (a) Matthew 13:20-21
        - (b) The Word gets in, but it doesn't get way in.
          - (i) It just gets beneath the surface.
            1. Right beneath the surface is a rock ledge.
        - (c) This is the surface hearer.
          - (i) This is the person who you think will be a great Christian.
            1. He makes a profession of faith.
            2. He is baptized.
            3. But after a while, you don't see him anymore.
              - a. They fizzle for a little while, then they disappear.
              - b. They have no root in themselves.
      - (3) Some fell among the thorns.
        - (a) Matthew 13:22
        - (b) There is a rival crop.
        - (c) The Word gets in, the Word gets down, but this person has never truly repented of sin.

- (i) The weeds, thorns, and thistles choke out the Word of God.
    - (ii) This person doesn't truly know the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - (4) Some fell on good ground.
    - (a) Matthew 13:23
  - c) Expect many to reject the Gospel, but don't think that we have failed.
    - i) We have not failed if we have preached the Word of God.
      - (1) There is nothing wrong with the seed.
      - ii) If we give the Gospel, then some people will be saved.
      - iii) Our job is to scatter the seed; it is God's job to make it germinate.
      - iv) It is their responsibility to open their hearts and receive the good Word.
      - v) Don't expect everyone to come to Jesus.
    - d) The Gospel has not failed because the entire world does not come to Jesus Christ.
    - e) The Bible teaches that we are a little flock.
      - i) Matthew 7:14
      - ii) We are the Master's minority.
      - iii) We will never take over the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
      - iv) The Bible teaches that only twenty-five percent of the soil in the Parable of the Sower was ready to receive the Word.
        - (1) When that twenty-five percent received the Word, not all of them brought forth the same kind of fruit.
- 3) EXPECT MANY CHURCH MEMBERS TO BE HYPOCRITES (MATTHEW 13:24-30)
  - a) Expect many church members to be lost.
    - i) This doesn't mean that the Gospel has failed, nor has it taken God by surprise.
  - b) Matthew 13:24-30
    - i) Wheat is that which makes bread and sustenance.
      - (1) God's children are represented as wheat.
    - ii) The tares or weeds look like wheat.
      - (1) They are placed there by the enemy.
    - iii) The one who sows the wheat is the Son of Man, Jesus.
      - (1) Matthew 13:37
    - iv) The good seed are the believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.
      - (1) Matthew 13:38
    - v) The enemy who sows the weeds among the wheat is the devil.
      - (1) Matthew 13:39
    - vi) The harvest is the end of the age when God separates the wheat from the tares.
  - c) Expect there to be hypocrites in the church.
    - i) The devil is at work.
    - ii) Every church has hypocrites.
  - d) It is not our job to go through Christendom and separate the wheat from the tares.

- i) Never get into a crusade against someone else's religion.
    - (1) That is none of our business.
  - ii) Our business is to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
  - iii) We are to warn people of false doctrine, but don't go around rooting out tares.
    - (1) We will make some horrible mistake and pull up some wheat and leave some tares because we cannot see an individual's heart.
      - (a) We don't know that individual as God knows that individual.
  - e) In this parable, there are three basic thoughts:
    - i) The sowing of the tares.
      - (1) The devil did it.
    - ii) The growing of the tares.
      - (1) The hypocrites and the Christians grow together.
    - iii) The knowing of the tares.
      - (1) This will come at the end of the age.
  - f) The lesson in this parable:
    - i) Don't expect everybody to receive the Gospel.
    - ii) Don't get discouraged because of hypocrites in the church.
      - (1) This doesn't prove the Gospel is false.
      - (2) A counterfeit is the greatest compliment that anything that is real could have.
        - (a) A counterfeit is a testimony to the worthwhileness and validity of the real.
  - g) Don't expect that everybody who names the name of Jesus is really a true believer in the Lord Jesus Christ.
    - i) If you do, then you are going to be disappointed and discouraged.
- 4) EXPECT THE RISE OF FALSE CULTS (MATTHEW 13:31-32)
- a) We can expect the world to be filled with false cults.
  - b) Some interpret this parable as saying that the Gospel starts from a little seed and becomes a great, big tree.
    - i) But that is not the teaching.
    - ii) A mustard seed is pungent and small.
      - (1) It is fiery and hot.
        - (a) That speaks of the explosive power of the Gospel.
    - iii) Shrubs don't become trees.
      - (1) Genesis 1:11-12
      - (2) This is unnatural, a monstrosity, and some kind of unnatural growth.
  - c) The birds that lodge in the branches of this unnatural tree represent demon powers.
    - i) Matthew 13:4
      - (1) The birds came and stole away the seed.
      - (2) The same word used here for "birds" or "fowls" is the same word used in Matthew 13:31-32.

- (a) They represent demon powers.
  - ii) Matthew 13:19
    - (1) It is the power of Satan.
    - (2) These birds that catch away the seed illustrate the devil.
  - iii) Revelation 18:2
    - (1) God speaks of Babylon in this passage.
      - (a) Babylon was the cradle of all false religion.
        - (i) The Tower of Babel was in Babylon.
        - (ii) The first type of antichrist, Nimrod, founded this city.
      - (2) God looks to the final judgment of the false religion.
  - d) This doesn't mean that the Gospel has failed, and it doesn't mean that the Bible is not true.
    - i) The Bible says that false cults will come.
      - (1) 1 Timothy 4:1
    - ii) It is exactly, precisely what Jesus said would happen.
- 5) EXPECT TO FIND CORRUPTION IN THE PROFESSING CHURCH (MATTHEW 13:33)
  - a) This passage talks about yeast.
    - i) A woman takes three measures of wheat and puts leaven in it.
      - (1) The three loaves swell up and puff up with leaven.
    - ii) The idea here is that the woman is sneaky.
      - (1) She hides the leaven in the bread.
  - b) Unleavened bread is an emblem and a symbol of purity.
  - c) Leaven in the Bible is an emblem and a symbol of sin.
    - i) It speaks of evil, sin, and corruption.
    - ii) In the Old Testament, sacrifices were to be made without leaven.
      - (1) Exodus 12:8
      - (2) Leviticus 2:4
    - iii) 1 Corinthians 5:6-8
    - iv) Leaven works quietly and stealthily.
      - (1) It works best in lukewarm conditions.
  - d) Since the devil cannot beat the church, he joins the church.
    - i) He puts the tares in among the wheat.
      - (1) He corrupts the church.
    - ii) He begins false cults to preach a false gospel.
      - (1) He stealthily puts false teaching in the church.
  - e) Matthew 16:6
    - i) The leaven of the Pharisees is legalism.
    - ii) The leaven of the Sadducees is liberalism.
  - f) Mark 8:15
    - i) The leaven of Herod is licentiousness.
      - (1) Herod was a pleasure-mad, licentious king.

- g) Legalism, liberalism, and licentiousness have invaded the church of the Lord Jesus Christ.
    - i) That doesn't mean that we should quit.
      - (1) It means just the opposite.
      - (2) Why would Satan want to corrupt the church if it were not good to begin with?
    - ii) Every now and then, we read about a minister who goes off into licentious sin.
      - (1) That is the leaven of Herod.
    - iii) Every now and then, we read about some person who is so strict and narrow (a legalist), and he wants salvation by works.
      - (1) That is the leaven of the Pharisees.
    - iv) Sometimes, we read about someone who denies the resurrection, denies the deity of Jesus, and examines the words of Jesus to determine what they will give Jesus credit for saying.
      - (1) What arrogance to examine the words of Jesus!
      - (2) That is leaven of the Sadducees who say that "neither demon nor spirit nor resurrection."
        - (a) Acts 23:8
  - h) Will this cause us to close our Bibles and not preach anymore?
    - i) No, because it is exactly as Jesus said it would be.
  - i) Satan will corrupt the church and infiltrate the church with this kind of activity.
- 6) EXPECT GOD TO KEEP HIS WORD TO THE NATION OF ISRAEL (MATTHEW 13:44)
- a) If we want to know what God is doing in the world today, then watch the Middle East.
    - i) The Bible says very little, if anything, about America in prophecy.
    - ii) Keep your eyes upon Israel.
      - (1) God, in these last days, will keep His Word as He has sworn to do to the nation of Israel.
  - b) Matthew 13:44
    - i) The treasure hid in a field is Israel.
    - ii) This is the parable:
      - (1) A man is walking through a field.
      - (2) He discovers buried treasure in the field.
        - (a) He uncovers the treasure, sees what it is, and covers it back up again.
      - (3) He buys the field.
      - (4) When he owns the field, he owns what's in the field.
        - (a) He owns the treasure.
    - iii) Some people misinterpret this to mean the following:
      - (1) The treasure hidden in the field is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



- (2) We are the man walking through the field.
- (3) We sell everything that we have to buy the field and get the treasure.
- iv) The field is the world.
  - (1) The church doesn't buy the world; Christians don't buy the world.
- v) The Gospel is not for sale.
- vi) The Gospel is not discovered and then covered.
- c) Jesus called Israel His peculiar treasure.
  - i) Psalm 135:4
- d) Jesus deals with Israel in four basic steps:
  - i) Jesus promised the treasure.
    - (1) He made a solemn promise to Abraham, but the treasure was hidden.
      - (a) It was covered before Jesus came.
    - (2) Israel was a nation that was ignominiously small when Jesus was here on Earth.
    - (3) The treasure was buried in the field.
  - ii) For a brief time, Jesus uncovered the treasure.
    - (1) Matthew 12:27-28
    - (2) Jesus came doing miracles; He uncovered the treasure.
      - (a) Jesus did these miracles to show the kingdom power.
    - (3) But the Jewish people refused Jesus.
      - (a) They lied about Him.
      - (b) They criticized Him.
      - (c) They were compliant in the crucifixion of Jesus, as were the Gentiles.
    - (4) The treasure was covered again, but Jesus went to the cross to purchase the treasure.
  - iii) The treasure is now hidden; the treasure is now covered.
    - (1) People don't understand God's plan for Israel unless they know the Bible.
    - (2) The Bible says that it is the glory of God to conceal a thing.
      - (a) Proverbs 25:2
    - (3) When we read the Gospel of Matthew up to chapter 12, Jesus did miracles; but from chapter 12 on, Jesus didn't perform any more miracles.
      - (a) He did parables instead.
      - (b) Before chapter 12, Jesus didn't do parables; He did miracles.
        - (i) Before chapter 12, Jesus was uncovering the treasure.
          - 1. He was showing that this is the kingdom of God.
        - (ii) They refused it, so Jesus covered it up.
          - 1. "Hearing they will not understand."
            - a. Matthew 13:13
            - b. It was covered.
          - 2. Matthew 13:11
  - iv) Finally, Jesus will come again in glory to uncover this treasure.



- (1) Israel is going to come, and a nation will be born in a day.
  - e) The people of this world now trample this treasure.
    - i) The nations of the world are gathering themselves together against Israel.
  - f) But God is not finished with the nation of Israel.
    - i) He has bought the field, which is the world.
    - ii) He will take His peculiar treasure to Himself.
- 7) EXPECT JESUS TO BUILD HIS CHURCH (MATTHEW 13:45-46)
- a) Matthew 16:18
  - b) Some people say that the pearl of great price is the Gospel, and we sell everything that we have to buy the Gospel.
    - i) The Gospel is not for sale.
      - (1) If it were, we wouldn't have anything to sell anyway.
        - (a) We are bankrupt sinners; we have nothing.
    - ii) The man seeking goodly pearls is Jesus.
    - iii) The pearl of great price is the church.
  - c) The pearl is formed by an irritant inside of a clam or oyster.
    - i) The irritant is covered, layer upon layer, with a substance called nacre until it becomes something beautiful.
  - d) A diamond and an emerald can be divided but not a pearl.
    - i) The church is one body indivisible in the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - e) Jesus with His blood bought the pearl of great price.
    - i) As the pearl is taken from the depth of the ocean to the realms of light, Jesus has lifted us.
    - ii) The pearl goes from something ugly, a grit or grain of sand, and is made into something beautiful.
      - (1) That is what the Lord Jesus Christ has done for us.
    - iii) Jesus has paid the price.
  - f) Jesus will build His church.
    - i) We are on the winning side.
- 8) EXPECT GOD TO BRING IT ALL TO JUDGMENT (MATTHEW 13:47-51)
- a) These seven parables cover all of history.
  - b) We can expect God to judge righteousness.
  - c) This passage is a picture of a dragnet.
  - d) God has His net going through the nations of this world to win souls.
    - i) The angels will separate the good from the bad.
    - ii) Our job is to draw the net.
    - iii) God's job is to sort the catch.
  - e) Sometimes people walk the aisle of a church, but they are not really saved.
    - i) That is not our responsibility.
      - (1) We cannot cause anyone to believe.
      - (2) We cannot cause them not to believe.
      - (3) What we must do is to preach the Gospel.

- f) The kingdom of God is like a net that is drawn through the nations of the world.
  - i) At the end of the age, God will separate the good from the bad.

9) CONCLUSION

- a) What does all of this tell us?
  - i) God knows exactly what the situation will be like.
- b) In Matthew 13, He told us exactly what we are seeing.
  - i) Not everyone will hear the Gospel.
  - ii) Not everyone who hears the Gospel will be saved.
    - (1) But some will be saved.
  - iii) There will be hypocrites in the church.
    - (1) There are tares among the wheat.
  - iv) There will be corruption in the church like leaven.
    - (1) We have heard the scandals.
  - v) Israel will be persecuted and trampled; like a treasure, buried in a field.
    - (1) But the Lord Jesus will come soon and uncover the treasure.
  - vi) Jesus will build His church.
  - vii) Soon and very soon, He will come and sort the catch.
- c) If you have false expectations, if you think that the Gospel will convert the world, if you think that hypocrites prove the Bible not to be true, or if you think that false cults will never arise, then you will ask what went wrong.
  - i) But nothing has gotten out of God's control.
    - (1) It is exactly as God said it will be.
- d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16