



## Creativity, Enrichment and Refreshing Through Understanding

**"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" (Matthew 13:52).**

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**"Have ye understood all these**

**things?" (Matthew 13:51).**

Continuing on His theme of the old and new, Jesus went on to preach on the power and benefits of creativity.

"Jesus saith unto them, Have ye understood all these things? They say unto him, Yea, Lord. 52 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" (Matthew 13:51-52).

This episode teaches us fundamental principles for successful living.

1) "Have ye understood all these things?" (vs 51). As a good teacher, Jesus has been teaching a number of things on the Kingdom of God, laying them line upon line and precept upon precept (Isaiah 28:10,13). Before continuing unto the next topic, He checked with a question on whether the listeners understood what He had been teaching. This is important because in Matthew 7:21-29, Jesus taught that it is not the hearers but the doers of the word of God that will enter heaven. Furthermore, Romans 2:13 tells us that only the doers of the law shall be justified, and James 1:22 declares that hearers who do not do, are deceiving themselves. Proper understanding leads to salvation and correct practice in obedience to God's righteous demands. The Ethiopian Eunuch could have read all his way from Jerusalem to Ethiopia without understanding. God sent Philip to help him understand (Acts 8:26-39) - a salient reminder about the importance of fellowship. It is only when he understood that he got saved and baptised. Philip's question, "Understandest thou what thou readest?" (Acts 8:30) was the important turning point that led to these blessings. Jesus' question to the lawyer, "How readest thou?" (Luke 10:26) should provoke us to thorough self examination on whether our claimed knowledge of God's word has led

to obedience and correct Christian living in all areas of life. It is also worth noting the emphasise **"all these things"** (vs 51). God is not interested in half-baked cakes (Hosea 7:8) that leads to partial obedience, as that would not qualify anyone for heaven. "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all" (James 2:10). God's ultimate requirement still remains "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48).

2) "Every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven" (vs 52). This phrase illustrates that it is possible for a person to be instructed, but not unto the kingdom of heaven. It is possible to go to school, acquire certificates but not truly learn the key lessons of life. It is for this reason that Paul admonished Timothy to "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). True spiritual enlightenment makes the Christian like a priest, whose "... lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts" (Malachi 2:7).

3) "is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old" (vs 52). This highlight the principle of creativity and refreshing that are products of good understanding. The Bible is an unfathomable treasure. God and His words remain the same, but understanding draws out the many ramifications of the same truth that give new insights and applications to meet present needs. Creativity enlivens the same treasure of the Bible to constantly refresh, renew, invigorate, inspire and bless lives.