

## BOOK of Matthew, Auditing the Master: A Tax Collector's Report

(partial transcript of a talk by B. Cobbe Crisler with prior permission from Janet Crisler)

In fact, count up the number of times ears or hearing, or anything acoustical, is mentioned there, as well as the visual. Because it was an audio-visual environment. Right there in that very spot today you can see the sowers parable come to life. You will see the tares and wheat right there. The thorns. The stones. The rock. The fowls that come and eat the seed. We've seen them all right at that spot.

What a classroom it must have been, for a Master to teach his prime students in, and those who would listen? They could look around to see the lessons. They could hear every word he said. But then he tried to uplift that vision and uplift that sense of listening to a higher spiritual category.

(like at Cedars Bible Lands Park)

Matthew

Parable number two is the tares and the wheat, beginning in Verse 24. When I had our high school students over there, we actually experimented with details of the parable where the tares are very difficult to pull up. They bring the wheat right up with them because the wheat has a softer root, and this fits in exactly with the details of the parable as Jesus gave it.

13:24

Parable number three, the mustard seed, begins in Verse 31. It likens heaven to "a grain of mustard seed." You can find the mustard growing wild all over the Holy Land.

13:31

(Verse 32). "A very small seed, but later, it becomes the greatest of herbs and birds of the air lodge in the branches."

We have here parables that apparently have a prophecy attached to them. So as to not miss that, study the parallels given by Jesus in these parables. You have first the kingdom of heaven (KH) is likened to a grain of mustard seed (1 GMS) which a man took and sowed and it grew (Gr).

Therefore, 1 GMS x Gr = KH. But that's not all.

Look at parable number four, the leaven in three loaves (Verse 33). He makes the very same point except there's a difference.

13:33

"Kingdom of heaven" (KH), the same thing, is now defined as "leaven" or (L) "which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal," (in 3 MM), and "it was leavened" (Ld). Notice how the exact same things occur in both cases.

Thus, L + 3MM x Ld = KH.

Different words used. Woman, having her mission distinct from man's. Notice the order in which it happened.

(Verse 35). We know it's prophecy because Matthew says, "It might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world."

When you say "foundation of the world" to a Jewish listener or reader, you are really referring to Genesis 1, where they get their information about foundation of the world. What do we find?