

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> October 2011  
Speaker: Ken Sherwin  
Reading: Matthew 13:1-3

The Lord Jesus communicated to people in Parables. The simplest explanation of a parable is that it is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.

There was an event that captured globe interest. On 5<sup>th</sup> August 2010 there was a cave in in Chile. 33 men were trapped, 2300 metres underground. There was no access but there was a good air supply, there was no food or drink.

They were suddenly cut off. The rock fall was through no fault of their own. Death stared them in the face, all hope of them being saved appeared to be receding by the minute.

The whole human race has been affected by the fall of Adam. Only one prohibition was put in the garden “[In the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die](#)” (Gen 2:17). The devil tempted Eve and she was thoroughly deceived by the devil. She gave to Adam and he disobeyed God (Gen 3:6). A disaster occurred and all men and women are affected by it (Rom 5:12).

Death touches our doors because of sin. As a result we are cut off from the light “[Men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil](#)” (John 3:19) “[We are children of darkness](#)” (Eph 5:8).

We have been cut off from God as a result of the fall.

The miners in Chile were completely reliant on outside help.

In the Old Testament we read of Jonah who was inside the whale. He could say, “[Salvation is of the Lord](#)” (Jonah 2:9) only God could save him.

All the gold in the mine could not buy salvation. People long for money to save their lives “[What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?](#)” (Mark 8:36).

The government took over the search and rescue. The highest authority became interested in them.

God is interested in the sinner. Each soul is precious to God, He loves us and provided salvation for many.

A drill was sent down and a note sent up. We are all well, in the shelter, 33. The message gave hope and renewed effort for they were alive. The rescuers were motivated by love and compassion.

John 3:16

We are in danger of perishing but God has intervened and provided salvation. “[Son of man come to seek and save that which was lost](#)” (Luke 19:10).

There is a God who loves us, one who cares for us and wants to save us.

While the miners were awaiting rescue they needed nurture. They provided food and water.

God nurtures human beings “[While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease](#)” (Gen 8:22), “[He maketh His sun to rise](#)

on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust” (Matt 5:45).

God provides even for those who are ungrateful. He gave the very best for earth's worst.

The Chilean government had to make a hasty plan.

God's plan was not hastily conceived. “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel” (Gen 3:15). Back in the garden God had provided the one who would come to crush the devil. God had not been taken by surprise in any way.

The cost in total was borne by the Chilean government.

God bears the cost of salvation. “Ye are brought with a price” (1 Cor. 6:19), “We are..t redeemed...with the precious blood of Christ” (1 Peter 1:18,19).

Think of the hill outside Jerusalem. On Calvary's brow my Saviour died.

He bled and died to save the sinner.

Can you say He is mine? Can you say I am saved by the grace of God?

Eventually a bore hole was drilled down. There was 32 Chileans and 1 that was not but the rescue was free to all. The rescue was brought down to where they were.

The gospel goes out to all with no exceptions. Salvation is available to all and is brought down to where we are. It is God's unmerited grace and favour.

Each individual had to step into the capsule.

Salvation is brought to you but you must accept individually. Through faith in Jesus Christ you need to believe, He does the rest.

“For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Rom 10:12,13).

The ear of the Lord is open to the call. “The Spirit and the Bride say come” (Rev 22:17).

Thirsty sinner take Christ. “Taste and see that the Lord is gracious”. (Psa 34:8, 1 Peter 2:3)

If you take trust Christ as Saviour He will save you and you will be able to say it is well with your soul. If your life is taken once you have trusted it will be “to be with Christ which is far better” (Phil 1:23).

The moment you believe you are saved instantly, Acts 16:31

When the miners came back their was rejoicing.

“And when she hath found *it*, she calleth *her* friends and *her* neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost. Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth” (Luke 15:9,10)

Will you give joy in heaven as you repent?

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life” (John 5:24) No fear of judgment, have everlasting life now.

“Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son” (Col 1:13)

It is wonderful to know you are out of Satan's domain and in the freedom of Christ in the gospel.

“To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you” (1 Peter 1:4) for the believer in Christ Jesus.

“How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation” (Heb 2:3)