

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Language is one of important things in the human being life, as it is a means to communicate with others. Actually we cannot communicate with others without using language. In this case the writer realizes that there are many kinds of languages that can be used to contact with others. Priestley (Alwasilah 1985 : 9) states as follows:

Language is a method of conveying our ideas to the minds of other person; and the grammar of any language is a collection of observation on the structure of it and a system of rules for proper use of it. It is clear that we convey our ideas, opinion, using the particular method, grammar, structure, figure of speech, in order that listeners or audiences understand what we proposes.

In this thesis the writer would like to analyze language which is used in the Bible, especially the Gospel. He would like to analyze about the parables of Kingdom of Heaven in the Synoptic Gospel. Most Christians think that the most familiar parts of scriptures are the parables that Jesus used in his teaching.

Jesus expressed the verbal situation about the world surrounding by the parables. He manipulated them to draw what had happened in the real life. He used a story taken from daily life. When audience or listeners heard the parable they would agree since its story was real common and familiar. To Jesus' audience, the parable covered common ground. The parables were easy for His audience because they dealt with practical matters.

In the parables Jesus used metaphorical language, namely sower, pearl, treasure, coin, net, mustard seed, the yeast, the weeds, sheep, servant, the rich fool, the workers,

the girls, and so on. The expression of metaphor never escapes from the reality. It's never related to the fiction world. The stories or examples were taken from the situation where Jesus lived. In parable Jesus expressed the spiritual truth by comparing them with images.

We have heard the parable for years. From the titles themselves, most of us can tell the story. This is relatively easy to digest, at least on the surface. See the Parable of the Hidden Treasure in the following:

The Kingdom of Heaven is like this. A man happens to find a treasure hidden in a field. He covers it up again, and is so happy that he goes and sells everything he has, and then goes back and buys that field (GNB, Matt. 13:44).

It seems that there is something in common between the topic "the Kingdom of Heaven" and the vehicle "the treasure". Talking about the Kingdom of Heaven or to explain it, Jesus used the vehicle a treasure. It's such kind of gold, silver, jewel, or the other valuable things. In ancient times, to avoid the perpetual danger of forays and invasion by armies, people used to bury their valuable treasure in their field to ensure the safe keeping.

When a man finds a treasure, he will not let such a chance pass by, but he will immediately do everything he can do such as selling all he has if necessary in order to take advantage of this opportunity. The man finding the Kingdom of Heaven (God) will also do everything in order that the opportunity will not pass by.

The main lesson of this parable is that someone needs to sacrifice everything in order to secure the most valuable things. Jesus Himself is the Kingdom in his person. After finding him, everyone must be readily to get rid of everything he has.

The Kingdom of Heaven (the topic), has characteristics that make it identical with the vehicle, namely the treasure. Accordingly the metaphorical used in that sentence above shows the significance and compactness of the parable.

Seeing the significance of the Parable of Kingdom of Heaven, the writer wants to study them deeply. He wants to analyze the meaning of the Parables of Kingdom of Heaven in the Matthew Gospel. Since he applies the parable category of Glazier and Hellwig (1994) the title of the research is the meaning of the parables of the Kingdom of Heaven in the Matthew Gospel based on Glazier and Hellwig's (1994) category ?

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The problem of the research is to answer a single question, namely what are the meanings of the parables of the Kingdom of Heaven in the Matthew Gospel based on Glazier and Hellwig's category. Since there are 3 kinds of parables, the question can be broken down into the following:

1. What are the meanings of the similitude parables of the Kingdom of Heaven in the Matthew Gospel ?
2. What are the meanings of the strict sense parables of the Kingdom of Heaven in the Matthew Gospel ?
3. What are the meanings of the example parables of the Kingdom of Heaven in the Matthew Gospel ?

1.3 Limitation of the Study

In investigating the parables, the writer takes the gospel as the object of investigation. The Gospel in this case, taken from Hurault (1988) *Christian Community Bible*, published in Philippines by Claretian - Saint Paul - Divine Word Publications especially the Synoptic Gospel, namely Matthew, Mark and Luke. Actually The New Testament consist four evangelists. They are Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. In order to limit the scope of analysis, he does not analyze all of them but only take Matthew Gospels. In this study he would like to analyze the meaning and the image domain of the Kingdom of Heaven in the Matthew Gospel. The reason for choosing this Gospels to be investigated, is that the Matthew Gospel contains a lot of interesting data related to the parables.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The objective of the study is to find the meaning of the parables of the Kingdom of Heaven in the Matthew Gospel based on Glazier and Hellwig's (1994) category. The objective can be broken down into three objectives as follows:

1. To describe the meanings of the similitude parables of Kingdom of Heaven in the Matthew Gospel.
2. To describe the meanings of the strict sense parables of Kingdom of Heaven in the Matthew Gospel.
3. To describe the meanings of the example parables of Kingdom of Heaven in the Matthew Gospel.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The study can encourage the other researchers to have further research on the parables of the Kingdom of Heaven in the Matthew Gospel and the similar topics. Hopefully this study can become the significant reference.