

SPIRITUAL TASK—THE CHURCH (Matthew 25, 13)

by the Rev. David Roth at the New Church of Boulder Valley

Story While on earth the Lord taught people by means of stories or parables. “Without a parable spoke He not unto them.” The Lord taught what the kingdom of heaven or His church on earth is like by means of seven parables—one right after the other.

Meaning We are taught that the kingdom of heaven is within us. It is our goal to create that heavenly place right now while living an earthly life. When we do this we are part of the Lord’s church. The life we create for ourselves now is the life we carry with us and live out after death. The parables that the Lord taught about the kingdom of heaven teach us seven important principles for creating that heaven within. 1. We must open our minds to the truth and remove any barriers. 2. All good is from the Lord and all evil is from hell. 3. We must make an effort, no matter how small. 4. We must enter and endure temptations in order to grow. 5. We must be willing to give up our own ways for the Lord’s. 6. Belief in the oneness of God is the pearl of great price (very important). 7. We must reject what is evil and choose what is good.

Task This week give yourself a spiritual checkup. Pay attention to every time you compromise a teaching of the Lord for the sake of satisfying just yourself. Ask yourself, “Did that make me feel happier or make me feel like a good person?” Each time you do this see if it doesn’t get easier to stop and really think before you make a compromise the next time. Try to resist compromising and ask yourself the same question.