

**“Without A Parable He Did
Not Speak To Them”**

Matt. 13:3, 34-35

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- 3 - “Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: ‘Behold, a sower went out to sow.’”
- 34-35 - “All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them, 35 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: ‘I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world.’”

Definition Of Parable

- “Parabole” meaning “to place beside; to cast alongside.”
- “Signifies a placing of one thing beside another with a view to comparison.” (Vines)
- “A story that places one thing beside another for the purpose of teaching. It puts the known next to the unknown so that we may learn.” (Warren Wiersbe, “Windows On The Parables”)

Definition Of Parable

- Usually identified by the word “like.”
 - Matt. 13:31, 33 - “Another parable He put forth to them, saying: The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed... 33 Another parable He spoke to them: The kingdom of heaven is like leaven...”
- A common definition of a parable is “an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.”

Purpose of the Parables was to Conceal

- The disciples' attitude was that they considered themselves blessed to learn the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven.
 - Matt. 13:10-12, 16-17 - “And the disciples came and said to Him, ‘Why do You speak to them in parables?’ 11 He answered and said to them, ‘Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. 12 For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him... 16 But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; 17 for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.’”

Purpose of the Parables was to Conceal

- The hard hearts of the multitude considered the teachings of Christ to be a burden that was beneath them to bear, so Jesus spoke to them in parables.
 - Matt. 13:13-15 - “Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. 14 And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; 15 'For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.'”

Purpose of the Parables was to Conceal

- Mark 4:10-12 - “But when He was alone, those around Him with the twelve asked Him about the parable. 11 And He said to them, To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables, 12 so that 'Seeing they may see and not perceive, And hearing they may hear and not understand; Lest they should turn, And their sins be forgiven them.”

Purpose of the Parables was to Conceal

- Jesus disciples wanted to know all He had to teach.
 - Mark 4:33-34 - “And with many such parables He spoke the word to them as they were able to hear it. 34 But without a parable He did not speak to them. And when they were alone, He explained all things to His disciples.”
- Those seeking truth would ask for an explanation of the parable.
 - Matt. 13:36 - “Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, ‘Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field.’”

Purpose of the Parables was to Conceal

- A parable became an earthly form of Judgment, a means of sorting the willing hearers from the merely curious.
 - Matt. 13:12 - “For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.”

Subject Matter Of The Parables

- Primarily regarding the kingdom of heaven.
 - Matt. 13:11 - "... It has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven."
- Several parables begin with "The kingdom of heaven is like."
 - Matt 13:24, 31, 33, 44, 45, 47

Subject Matter Of The Parables

- The kingdom of heaven was the theme of Jesus' earthly ministry.
 - Matt. 4:17, 23 - “From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand...’ 23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.”

Subject Matter Of The Parables

- The kingdom of heaven was the theme of the Sermon on the Mount.
 - Matt. 5:3, 10 - “Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven... 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
 - Matt. 5:19-20 - “Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Subject Matter Of The Parables

- Matt. 6:10, 33 - “Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven...
33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”
- Matt. 7:21 - “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.”

Subject Matter Of The Parables

- The Nature of the Kingdom
 - The Parable of the Mustard Seed
 - The Parable of the Leaven
 - The Parable of the Hidden Treasure
 - The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price
- The Nature of the King
 - The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard
 - The Parable of the Lost Son
- The Nature of Citizens of the Kingdom
 - The Parable of the Good Samaritan
 - The Parable of the Persistent Widow

Interpreting The Parables

- Extremes to avoid:
 - Seeking some spiritual truth in every detail
 - Seeking only one spiritual truth in each parable

Interpreting The Parables

- Learn from the explanations Jesus gave in the parables and apply the principles of interpretation to other parables.
- Look for the central truth of the parable, making sure that any other truths gleaned from the parable are in harmony with it.
- Make certain your understanding of the parable is in harmony with all other revealed truth.
- Consider carefully the context of Jesus words to gain an interpretation when one is not given.
- Don't use the parables to formulate new doctrine.

Parables are Blessed by God

- Matt. 13:16-17 - “But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; 17 for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.”
- Rom. 16:25-26 - “Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began 26 but now has been made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures has been made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith.”