

Series: The Kingdom Parables

Title: It is a Matter of the Heart that is the Heart of the Matter.

Text: (Matt 13:3a, 10)

I didn't always understand the things my dad would say until I got older?

You are going to have to lick that calf again.

You're looking at that like a calf looking at a new gate.

There is more than 1 way to skin a cat.

If you don't have time to do it right the 1st time, when will you have time to do it again?

Grab my hand, but don't pull my finger.

Money Doesn't Grow on Trees.

What do you call a Fat Psychic? a 4 chin teller.

My nose Runs, & my feet smells, everything backwards.

Of course I Love you, I just don't like you right now.

If Wishes were fishes, we would all cast nets.

You can wish in one hand, & Poo in the other. Guess which one is going to get full first?

Son, you head was meant for more than a hatrack.

Do your kids ever look at you Funny?

What sayings are our children going to have an epiphany with when they have kids.

Did you know that people didn't understand Jesus either?

Did you know...

Jesus of Nazareth, really isn't from Nazareth?
(John 1:1; 17:5)

Did you know...

"Christ" is not Jesus' last name (surname).
Christ, means the Anointed One in Greek.
Christ in Greek is the = Messiah in Hebrew.
(John 1:41)

Did you know...

They called Him Rabbi, Master, Teacher.

(Jn 3:2) Many cults believe that is all He was.

MARK 4:1 He began again to **TEACH** by the sea side:

MARK 6:2 He began to **TEACH** in the synagogue:

MARK 6:34 He began to **TEACH** them many things.

LUKE 11:1 said unto him, Lord, **TEACH** us to pray, as

Did You Know...

Jesus used parables to teach God's Truth?

(Matt 13:3) *He spake many things unto them in parables*

(Matt 12:34-35) *All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them:*

Did you know...

It was Prophesied the Messiah would do this?

(Matt 13:35) *That 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. (Ps 78:2).*

They Jews should have recognized Him for it

What is a Parable?

Parable ~ “to lay alongside” for Comparison. Jesus’ parables were stories that were “lain alongside” a truth in order to illustrate that truth.

A Parable can be a Pithy, Instructive Saying:

“Physician, heal thyself”

“A prophet is not without honor, save in his own country.”

“They that are whole need not a physician but they that are sick”

“Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also”

A Parable can be a Similitude, a Comparison of one thing to another.

“No man putteth a new piece of cloth on an old garment.”

“Ye are the salt of the earth; but if the salt have lost his savor; where with shall it be salted?”

“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is on a hill cannot be hid.”

A Parable can be a Story an earthly story to compare with a heavenly meaning.

“The House build upon a Rock, and the house build upon the sand.”

“The story of the Good Samaritan”

“The Prodigal Son”

Jesus didn’t start by teaching in parables.

He started with the “Sermon on the Mount” and the Be-attitudes.

Blessed are the poor in spirit.

Blessed are they that mourn.

Blessed are the Meek. ETC

1st 8 chapters He preaches, using only a few stories

Suddenly, He begins telling parables exclusively, much to the surprise of His disciples. (Matt13:10)

“Why speakest thou unto them in parables?”

Why Did Jesus switch to Teaching in Parables?

His use of parables had a two-fold purpose:

Reveal truth to those who wanted to know it.
Conceal truth from those who were indifferent.
(Matt 13:10-17)

(Matt 12:22–32) The Pharisees had publicly rejected Him.

They blasphemed the Holy Spirit, thus committing the unpardonable sin.

Fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy of a hardhearted and a spiritually blind people (Is 6:9–10).

Jesus' responded by teaching in parables.

Those who, like the Pharisees, had a preconceived bias against the Lord's teaching would dismiss the parables as irrelevant nonsense. (Matt 13:12-15)

However, those who truly sought the truth would understand. (Matt 13:11,16-18)

Jesus made sure His disciples understood the meaning of the parables: *"But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples."* (Mark 4:34b)

(Luke 10:21) *In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.*

How Do I understand His Parables?

Interpreting them can present some challenges.

Sometimes, the Lord gave the interpretation.
The Parable of the Sower (Matt 13:18-23)
The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares (37-43)

Principles in interpreting the other parables:

1) Determine the scope of the spiritual truth being presented.

Sometimes, Jesus would open a parable with an introduction that provided context.

"The kingdom of heaven is likened" (Vs 24)

"The kingdom of heaven is like" (Vs 31,33,44,47)

In the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector, we read this: "And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:" (Lk 18:9)

Introductory Phrases, provide scope because every detail is not to be taken literally.
You are not ACTUALLY SALT.
No One ACTUALLY casts their pearls in a Hog pen.

2) Distinguish between the “meat” of the story and what is just ornamentation.

Not every detail of a parable carries a deep spiritual meaning.

Some details are simply there to help the story seem more realistic.

The 5 foolish virgins were told to go and buy Oil.
No One ACTUALLY buys the Holy Spirit.

3) Compare Scripture with Scripture.

Jesus’ parables will never contradict the rest of the Word of God.

(1 Cor 2:13) *Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; **comparing spiritual things with spiritual.***

Parables depict Doctrine,
Parables don't determine Doctrine.
Parables are Pictures, not Precepts.

4) The Condition of Your Heart Matters Most! Jesus speaks of those who have “*Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.*” (Matt 13:9).

Remember the Purpose of using Parables:
Reveal truth to those who wanted to know it.
Conceal truth from those who were indifferent.

SO Who is HE “who hath ears to hear”?

Jesus refers to all who have been given His words: (Matt 13:11,16)

No matter their age, ethnicity, language, etc.

There is a VAST difference between having ears, and having “ears to hear.”

Illus: Since becoming a parent, do you understand the difference between Hearing you & Listen to you?

Jesus’ parable of the sower and the seed contrasts types of hearers:

Those who let the Word of God pass straight through one and out the other, and those who truly listen and seek understanding.

(Mark 4:11-12) *And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables: 12 That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.*

Some hear the Word, but it can't take root because Satan is able to steal it away because of the hardness of their heart.

(Mark 4:15) *And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.*

They have aloud their hurts, to bitterness, to a stronghold.

Some hear the Word, but do not allow it to take root because the seduction of worldly pleasures and comfort overcomes them.

(Mark 4:18-19) *And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, 19 And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of **OTHER THINGS** entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.*

Some hear the Word, then reject the Word because of persecution or trials.

(Mark 4:16-17) *And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.*

Others hear the Word and open themselves to understand and accept it so that it transforms them.

Those who have “ears to hear” allow the Word to bear fruit to the glory of God.

Whenever Jesus says, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear,”

He is calling for people to pay careful heed.

It's another way of saying, “Listen up!

Pay close attention!”

Speaking in parables was one way in which Jesus sought to gain the attention of the crowds —people love stories, and the parables depicted events and characters with which they could readily relate.

Unless they were willing to tune out other distractions and come to Jesus to understand the meaning of His preaching, His words would be only empty stories. They needed more than ears; they needed ears to hear.

It is up to US, the hearer, to decide whether to take the Word seriously and pursue understanding or blow it off and ignore it.

Who is “he who has ears”?

The simple answer: all people who have been or are being given the words of God.

Who has Ears to Hear?

Those whose Heart is Open!

Seeking God’s truth takes energy and focus;

It takes a willingness to be challenged& changed

The Danger of refusing to Listen & believe is that they will eventually lose their opportunity to Hear & Believe:

“For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.” (Matt 13:12; Rom 1:18–32).

The Gospels: Matt, Mark, Luke, John are not the only place Jesus spoke of having “Ears to Hear.”

In (Rev 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22).

7 letters to the churches: *“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches”*

The readers of Revelation are called upon to pay close attention and seek God’s wisdom concerning what’s written.

We as a Church are made up of believers. Jesus is calling upon us as a church to have ears to hear also.

(Rev 2:1-7)

Vs 4 Rebuke

Vs 5 Repent, Turn back in our hearts, Obey!
Risk losing our candlestick.

Risk losing our ability to be His light bearer.

Vs 7 Overcome the Temptation to to not hear & Obey.

We have A Call from God to us w/ a Promise.

(Isaiah 55:1–3) *Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. 2*

Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. 3 Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.

The question to us is...Are we Thirsty?
Do WE Have Ears to Hear?

The Secret to Hearing God, Is Wanting It!

(Is 44:3) For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring:

#1 Reason we don't understand the Bible.

Illus: *Have you ever read the bible, and get to the end of the chapter and say. "What did it say?"*

Why? Because our Ears are not Hearing.

1st: Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to us.

(John 16:13) Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

(John 14:26) But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Do the parables speak to us, or are they concealed?

Is our Heart open?

Do you have ears that are thirsting to hear?

What is the condition of the ground of our heart?