



27: Kingdom Parables (part 1) Matthew 13:1-23

We were *wired* to love stories.

That's why Jesus used so many parables, because stories stick.
Let's dig to discover the meaning of ***The Kingdom Parables***.

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WHY PARABLES?

Jesus taught in parables because stories stick.

WHAT ARE PARABLES?

Parables are everyday stories revealing eternal truths.

Matthew 13:1-2 (NLT) Later that same day Jesus left the house and sat beside the lake. A large crowd soon gathered around him, so he got into a boat. Then he sat there and taught as the people stood on the shore.

This **lake** is what we often call the 'Sea of Galilee', but it *is* a freshwater lake. Jesus taught crowds on the hills of Galilee, but on this day, Jesus used a different method to communicate to the **large crowd gathered**. Jesus **got into a boat** and spoke to the crowds standing on the **shore**.

Matthew 13:3-9 (NLT) **He told many stories in the form of parables**, such as this one: "Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seeds. As he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate them. Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn't have deep roots, they died. Other seeds fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants. Still other **seeds fell on fertile soil**, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted! Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand."

The disciples of Jesus heard Him teach many times, and He made the meanings simple and clear, but NOW...now Jesus told these stories without explaining what they meant. WHY?

Matthew 13:10-13 (NLT) His disciples came and asked him, "Why do you use parables when you talk to the people?" He replied, "You are permitted to understand the secrets of **the Kingdom of Heaven**, but others are not. To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given, and they will have an abundance of knowledge. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them. That is why I use these parables, For they look, but they don't really see. They hear, but they don't really listen or understand."

This conversation was just between Jesus and **His disciples**, who were **permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven**.

Those who really listen to Jesus with a desire to do what He says will be **given more understanding, an abundance of knowledge** - WISDOM from God.

- Parables reveal & conceal - revealing truth to those who are listening, but concealing the truth from those who are not.

Matthew 13:14-15 (NLT) This fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah that says, 'When you hear what I say, you will not understand. When you see what I do, you will not comprehend. For the hearts of these people are hardened, and their ears cannot hear, and **they have closed their eyes**— so their eyes cannot see, and their ears cannot hear, and their hearts cannot understand, and they cannot turn to me and let me heal them.'

Note who is at fault here. Jesus hasn't blinded them or caused them to be deaf to His teachings. Instead, the people have closed their eyes and ears.

- Parables help the simple see and make the boastful blind.

Matthew 13:16-17 (NLT) But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. I tell you the truth, **many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but they didn't see it.** And they longed to hear what you hear, but they didn't hear it.

The disciples of Jesus were seeing and hearing what **many prophets and righteous people longed to see.** For hundreds of years the Jewish people were studying the Scriptures and preparing themselves as they awaited the Ultimate Messiah, yet they died before His arrival.

Matthew 13:18-19 (NLT) Now listen to the explanation of the parable about the farmer planting seeds: The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who **hear the message about the Kingdom and don't understand it.** Then the evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts.

How many people fit into this category? Someone shares the message of Jesus with them, but they **don't understand it** and don't make much time to *try* to understand it, and the evil one - the devil - snatches away **the message about the Kingdom.**

Matthew 13:20-21 (NLT) The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word.

Rocky soil represents the person who not only **hears the message,** but **immediately receives it with joy.** These people are excited about hearing that Jesus died to pay for their sins. They *WANT* to be forgiven and for a little while, they act as if they *ARE* forgiven. But as soon as they are **persecuted for believing God's word,** they fold and fade away, like a plant that wilts when the sun beats down on it long enough.

Matthew 13:22 (NLT) The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God's word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth, so no fruit is produced.

Others hear God's word, seem to respond to it, but are sidetracked **by the worries of life and the lure of wealth.**

- Instead of seeking the Kingdom first, and trusting God with the rest (as Jesus talked about in the Sermon on the Mount - [Mt 6:25-34](#)), these people worry about the everyday concerns of life.
- Instead of storing treasures in heaven, that won't rust or fade ([Mt 6:19-21](#)), these people focus on storing treasures on earth.

Matthew 13:23 (NLT) The seed that fell on good soil represents **those who truly hear and understand God's word and produce a harvest** of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!"

The **good soil, those who truly hear and understand God's word** - *true disciples of Jesus* - **will produce a harvest.**

True disciples of Jesus won't fall away due to persecution.

True disciples of Jesus won't get tangled up in worldly worries, riches, or pleasures on earth.

Jesus is calling His disciples to an incredible task...to bear spiritual fruit - that their lives would produce more life!

❓ **Which kind of soil represents YOUR life?**

heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), **Caleb** (864-315-8015), **Gary** (850-673-2507),

Betty (850-973-3266), or another follower of Jesus soon!

* Or call our **deacons & wives: Alan & Christy Androski** (850-464-1428), **Steve & Debbie Bass** (850-673-7952), **Tim & Joni Hughey** (850-464-1156), **Mark & Dot Mancil** (850-253-5405), **Boss & Amelia Mulkey** (850-464-6717), or **Tom & Martha Waddail** (850-973-0011).