

Why Parables?

What do you think of this statement...?

“Jesus came to seek and save the lost, and in order to do that, he had to capture the people’s attention. One way he did this was by **speaking in parables**. He explained the kingdom of God in terms that people could understand, so they could believe in him and have eternal life.”

The above is a paraphrased excerpt from a “bestselling and award winning” author

Instead ... (vs. 12)

Jesus preaches in parables so they will not “perceive, understand, turn, and be forgiven.”

Parables are judgment (compare to 2 Sam 12, Judges 9)

Why?

What if following Jesus was not easy, but hard?

What if Jesus was raising the bar?

What if Jesus was saying, “Wide is the path that goes to death, but narrow is the path to life?”

What if Jesus said that to be his disciple you had to “pick up your cross, become like a child, be reborn?”

What if being a disciple meant loving God with all of your heart, soul, mind, and strength?

A Disciple Lets the Gospel Go Deep

Bad soils have a depth issue

What is the “word” Jesus is talking about, anyway?

A Disciple Asks Questions and Listens to Jesus’ Answers

Verse 10 – “And when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables.”

A Disciple Heeds Jesus’ Warning

Can soil change?

Every warning has an implicit call to repentance

A Disciple Sows the Word

This is organic, guaranteed growth

A Disciple Trusts in the Messiah

OK... so WHY PARABLES?

Isaiah 6:8-13

Vss. 8-10 → Isaiah is given a ministry of judgment

Vss. 11 → Isaiah, asks, “How long, O Lord?” (ministry of judgment is not that fun!)

UNTIL – “Cities lie waste without inhabitant” – The Babylonian conquering of Israel

UNTIL – “The Lord removes people far away” – The Jews deported to Babylon, maybe the Diaspora scattering

UNTIL – “A tenth remains in it, yet it is burned again” – The remnant of regathered Israel is judged by God. Again indicates a second judgment.

UNTIL – “Like a terebinth or oak, whose stump remains when it is felled. The holy seed is its stump.” – Only the “holy seed” remains... the Messiah, Jesus Christ. That’s how long.

The Gospel is about what Jesus has done for you. We pursue that truth and bring it to the bottom of our hearts. Then the rest will fall into place.

Questions for Personal Study

1. In your life, what do you do to make the Gospel go deep?
2. Which soil do you resemble? Is there a part of Jesus’ warning you need to respond to?
3. Do you share the word with others? Is your life yielding fruit?
4. How does Isaiah 6 point to Christ? (BONUS – look at Galatians 3:16, Gen. 13:15 and Gen. 17:8 for the idea of “seed” as Messiah)