

MATTHEW: THE KING WHO SAVES
“Can You Hear Me?” – God
Matthew 13:1-23
January 11, 2026

Matthew’s Organization of His Gospel

Narrative – Teaching – Transition

Matthew Organization of the Parables Jesus Told

1. What is a parable?

A parable is a story taken from real life (or a real-life situation) from which a spiritual truth is drawn.¹

2. Why did Jesus teach in parables?

He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them” (Mt 13:11).

Parables conceal the truth from those who will not submit to Christ and His rule (13:12-15).

Parables reveal the truth to those who by God’s grace will submit to Christ and His rule (13:16-17).²

3. What is the subject of the parables in Matthew 13?

“The secrets of the kingdom of heaven” (13:11).

The rule and reign of God over all people and all things in all places and all times.³

Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. (1 Co 15:24–25)

Four Heart Conditions Affecting How One Hears God

1. **The well-trodden path represents the HARD HEART (13:18-19).**

See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness. (Heb 3:12–13)

2. **The rocky ground represents the SHALLOW HEART (13:20-21).**

¹ J.M. Boice, *The Parables of Jesus*, p.14.

² Sean O’Donnell, *Preach the Word: Matthew*, p. 356ff.

³ Martyn Lloyd Jones, *The Kingdom of God*, p. 40-41.

3. The thorn plants represent the DIVIDED HEART (13:22).

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." (Lk 12:15)

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." (Mt 19:23–24)

When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." (Mt 19:25–26)

4. The fertile soil represents the OPEN HEART (13:23).

This is the person who welcomes the **Word** IMMEDIATELY.

This is the person who welcomes the **Word** DEEPLY.

This is the person who welcomes the **Word** EXCLUSIVELY.

What kind of fruit is found from the who hears and responds to King Jesus?

Fruit of repentance (Mt 3:13)

Fruit of abiding in Christ (John 15:5-8)

Fruit of **the Spirit** (Gal 5:22-23)

Fruit of good works (Eph 2:10) and good deeds (Titus 2:10)

How is your hearing?