

## Men's Bible Study: The Parables; Images of God's Kingdom

Week 1

8/9/23

Intro Week

**What are some of the most popular parables that Jesus told to teach about His Kingdom? What is one of your favorite parables and why?**

**Luke 8:9-10 (NLT), "His disciples asked him what this parable meant. <sup>10</sup> He replied, 'You are permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of God. But I use parables to teach the others that the Scriptures might be fulfilled: 'When they look, they won't really see. When they hear, they won't understand.'"**

**Matthew 13:10-15 (NLT), "His disciples came and asked him, 'Why do you use parables when you talk to the people?' <sup>11</sup> He replied, 'You are permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven, but others are not. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> 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.'"**

- 1. Lack of desire to truly know God**
- 2. Bias toward your own agenda**
- 3. Fear of what the truth will reveal**