

NOTES: The Moral of the Story
June 5-6th, 2021
Compelled Church: Nate Elarton

Matthew 13:9 "He who has ears, let him hear."

"Understanding what Jesus speaks to us is how we continue to grow in our relationship with Him."

The tension that many of us find ourselves in is that we are hearing only what we want to hear rather than what Jesus is trying to speak to us.

Matthew 13:13-15 "Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, you will keep on hearing, but will not understand; You will keep on seeing, but will not perceive; For the heart of this people has become dull, with their ears they scarcely hear, and they have closed their eyes, otherwise they would see with their eyes, Hear with their ears, And understand with their heart and return, And I would heal them.'

What is a parable?

- A story that illustrates a Spiritual lesson
- Means to cast alongside
- Approximately 1/3 of Jesus' teaching is in parables.
- They are usually taken from everyday life
- They often start with a question to elicit thought, e.g. "Who from you...?" or "What do you think..."
- They often require a reversal in one's thinking, such as making a despised Samaritan one's neighbor, or the tax collector, not the Pharisee, righteous.

What was the point of the parables?

- To focus the listener on God and his kingdom.
- To reveal the character of God:
- To draw a picture of God the Father's loving heart for lost souls.
- Several of Christ's parables instruct on being prepared for end times.

Why are the parables important to us today?

They help Us Understand the Gospel

Romans 1:16 says, "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: the first to the Jew, then to the Gentile."

They help us Know the Mysteries of Heaven

Ephesians 1:9 "He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him."

The Revolutionize the way we See Things

"Learning something new is often hindered by unlearning something old."

Jesus changes everything; He wants to change you. Will you let Him? Will you listen and hear what He is speaking to you today?

Sermon Discussion Questions: The Moral of the Story

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For continued group, individual, and family study

1. Talk/reflect on a time when you were listening to someone speak to you but completely missed the point of what they were saying?
2. Why do you think listening and understanding is such a crucial part for any relationship?
3. How can having a real understanding of what Jesus speaks to us help strengthen our walk with Him?

Read Matthew 13:9-17

4. What reasons does Jesus give for speaking in parables?
5. How can parables help us understand the Gospel?
6. How can parables help us understand the mysteries of God?
7. In what ways has Jesus revolutionized our World and how we are to think?
8. What is one practical thing you can do this week to be intentional in trying to hear what God is speaking to you?

Read Luke 18:9-14 "The Pharisee and the tax collector" for next week.