



THE GOSPEL OF
MATTHEW



The Purpose of the Parables

Matthew 13:1–3, 10–17



Matthew 13:1–4

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them.”



Matthew 13:5–9

⁵ “Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶ but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears, let him hear.”



Matthew 13:10–14

¹⁰ Then the disciples came and said to him, “Why do you speak to them in parables?” ¹¹ And he answered them, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ¹² For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ¹³ This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. ¹⁴ Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says:



Matthew 13:14–15

‘You will indeed hear but never understand,
and you will indeed see but never perceive.’”
15 For this people’s heart has grown dull,
and with their ears they can barely hear,
and their eyes they have closed,
lest they should see with their eyes
and hear with their ears
and understand with their heart
and turn, and I would heal them.’”



Matthew 13:16–17

¹⁶ “But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. ¹⁷ For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.”



Matthew 13:18–21

¹⁸ “Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.”



Matthew 13:22–23

²² “As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

²³ As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

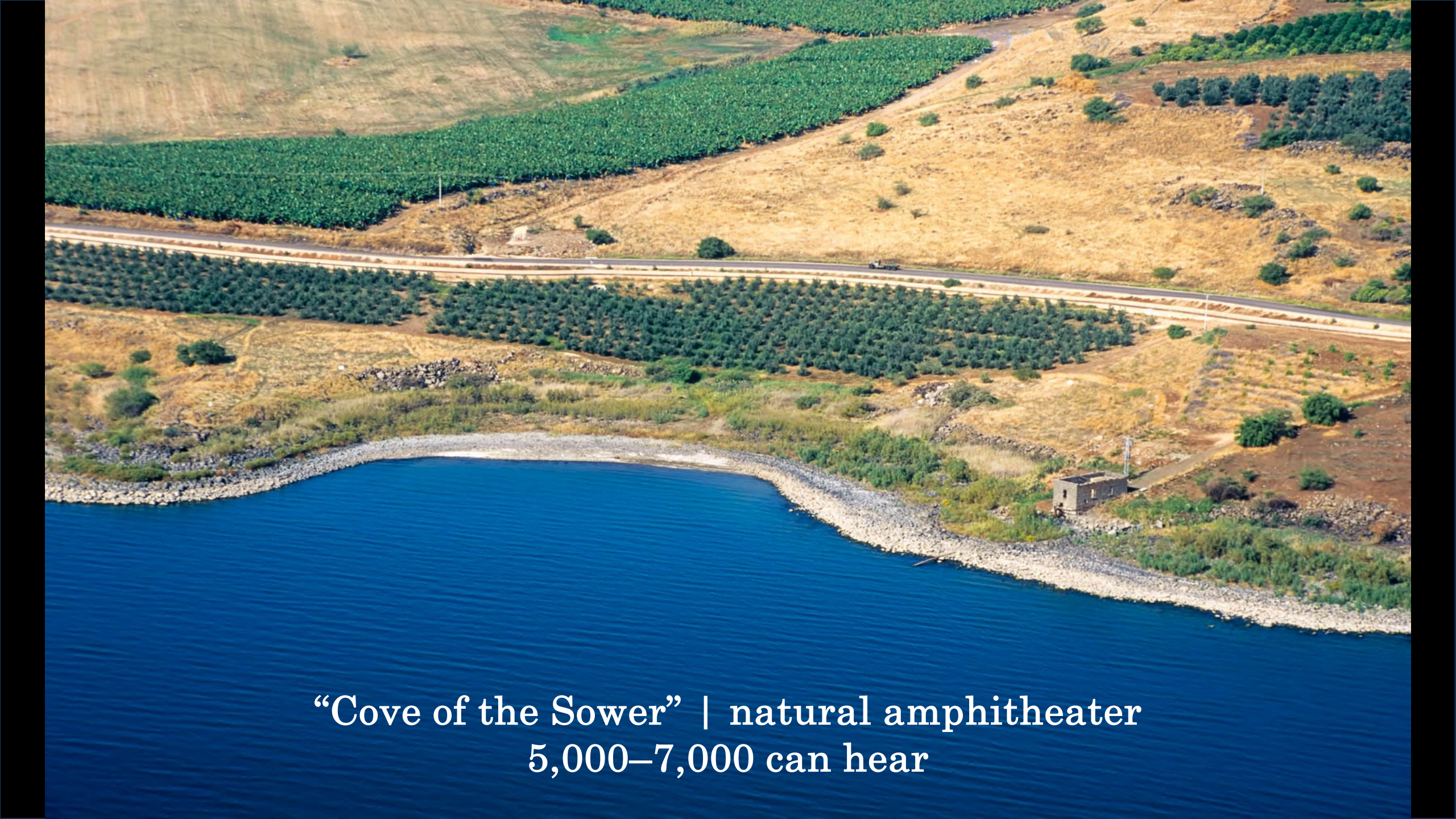


1. The parables divide the crowd (13:1–3)

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables...



Capernaum looking south



“Cove of the Sower” | natural amphitheater
5,000–7,000 can hear



“Cove of the Sower” aerial



“Cove of the Sower” from the lake



“Cove of the Sower” | audible distance



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2. The parables reveal God's kingdom (13:1–23)

³ “A sower went out to sow...”

¹¹ “Why do you speak to them in parables?”

¹² “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven...”

¹⁸ “Hear then the parable of the sower...”

¹⁹ “When anyone hears the word of the kingdom...”

Revealing the Kingdom

13:11	“the secrets of the kingdom of heaven”
13:19	“the word of the kingdom ”
13:24	“The kingdom of heaven may be compared”
13:31	“The kingdom of heaven is like”
13:33	“The kingdom of heaven is like”
13:38	“the sons of the kingdom ”
13:41	“they will gather out of his kingdom ”
13:43	“in the kingdom of their Father”
13:44	“The kingdom of heaven is like”
13:45	“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like”
13:47	“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like”
13:52	“trained for the kingdom of heaven”



3. The parables conceal God's kingdom (13:10–12)

¹⁰ Then the disciples came and said to him, “Why do you speak to them in parables?” ¹¹ And he answered them, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ¹² For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.”



4. The parables bounce off hard hearts (13:13–15)

¹³ This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. ¹⁴ Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says:



4. The parables bounce off hard hearts (13:13–15)

¹⁴ ‘You will indeed hear but never understand,
and you will indeed see but never perceive.’”

¹⁵ For this people’s heart has grown dull,
and with their ears they can barely hear,
and their eyes they have closed,
lest they should see with their eyes
and hear with their ears
and understand with their heart
and turn, and I would heal them.’”



5. Christ is the gift in the parables (13:16–17)

¹⁶ “But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. ¹⁷ For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.”

Do you hear?

13:9	“ears”	13:16	“they hear”
13:9	“hear”	13:17	“hear”
13:13	“hearing”	13:17	“what you hear”
13:13	“do not hear”	13:17	“did not hear it”
13:14	“hear”	13:18	“Hear then”
13:15	“their ears”	13:19	“anyone hears”
13:15	“barely hear”	13:20	“hears the word”
13:15	“hear”	13:22	“hears the word”
13:15	“with their ears”	13:23	“hears the word”
13:16	“your ears”		



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