

Sermon Title: A Kingdom Concealed and Revealed

Date: 06-08-2025

Pray and Read the Text together

- **Sermon Text:** Matthews 13:10-17, 34-35

Some Possible Discussion Questions

1. What is your favorite parable from the Bible or riddle from your culture? Why is it so?
2. Why do you think the Bible is composed of multiple literary forms—narrative, discourse, poetry, epistles,...instead of one consistent form? In other words, can the same truth be communicated in different ways?
3. How is the enigmatic nature of Jesus' parables not the same as contradictions of truth claims about the kingdom of God?

Introduction

- Proverbs 1:5-7 makes it clear that there are two different types of people in the world—the wise and the fools.
- The dividing line between humanity lies in whether we fear the Lord or not; whether we are wise or fools; whether we obey or disobey godly instruction.
- Like the Proverbs, the teachings of Jesus divide. They divide between those who wisely receive and those who foolishly reject; between those who build on the rock and those who build on sand.
- The parables of Jesus conceal and reveal secret and hidden truths about the kingdom of which he came to inaugurate and call all to repent and enter.
- The enigmatic nature of the parables confronts our hearts, challenges our understanding, and calls us to believe in the King and his kingdom.

Passage Context

- Throughout the gospel, Matthew bounces back and forth between narrative and discourse.
- In chapters 1-4, Matthew presents the narrative of Jesus' birth and the start of his ministry. In chapters 5-7, Matthew records the discourse or teaching of Jesus that has come to be known as the Sermon on the Mount.
- Matthew 13:1 makes this connection between the works and words of Jesus clear as we read, "That same day..." And this is important for us to connect because the parabolic

teachings of Jesus interpret and illuminate his miraculous ministry—the discourses of Jesus shed light into the narratives of Jesus.

- Jesus chooses to teach through parables because parables will both conceal and reveal—they will only be understood by those who have ears to hear (Matthew 11:15; 13:9).

Sermon Outline

1. A Kingdom Concealed

- Jesus speaks in parables because, even though he had done great and miraculous works, the religious elite of his days still did not believe in him. Though they saw his works, they did not see; though they heard his words, they did not hear; though Jesus authoritatively taught, they did not understand.
- The words of Jesus will conceal the kingdom of God by causing the hearts of many to grow dull and lack understanding. The parables of Jesus created a dividing line between those who would believe and receive, and those who would reject his teachings.
- Those who are self-righteous, believing they are in no need of the King or believing that they are entitled to the kingdom, are like the self-righteous Pharisees—blind and deaf to the teachings of Jesus.
- Three diagnostic questions to see if you are self-righteously trusting in yourself.
 - i. Are you, like the religious leaders, trusting in your perceived knowledge? Are you merely trusting in your intellect and having the right answers to the questions of Christianity...?
 - ii. Are you, like the religious leaders, trusting in the good works that you have done believing that you have done enough or more than others...?
 - iii. Are you, like the religious leaders, trusting in what you can bring and give—your time, talents, and treasures...?

2. A Kingdom Revealed

- Just as the same sun that melts ice is the same sun that hardens clay, so too the same parables that conceal are the same parables that reveal.
- Jesus and his kingdom, for the blind and foolish, are a fragrance of death, but for the wise and the seeing, Jesus and his kingdom are an aroma of life (2 Corinthians 2:15-16)

- Jesus, in speaking in parables does not hide the secrets of the kingdom, but rather fulfills Psalm 78 by revealing and proclaiming the glorious deeds of the Lord, his might, and the wonders that he has done.
- Jesus, through his parables reveals the kingdom to the children, but conceals it to those who are blind in their self-righteousness.
- Three diagnostic questions to see if you have the disposition of a child.
 - i. Are you, unlike the self-righteous, trusting not in what you know, but in who you know, and in who knows you...?
 - ii. Are you, unlike the self-righteous, trusting not in what you can do, but in what has been done and accomplished for you by grace...?
 - iii. Are you, unlike the self-righteous, trusting not in what you can bring and give, but in what has been freely given to be received...?

Sermon Conclusion

- If the kingdom is anything, it is a kingdom of sinners who have “seen” their guilt and turned to the only One in whom there is forgiveness—the King.
- As we study the parables of Jesus, we must remember that for some, in their hardness of heart, blindness, and deafness, the kingdom will be concealed. But for the children, for the dependent, for those who see their need because they are blind, the kingdom will be revealed.
- The parables reveal to the blind but conceal to the self-righteous that the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men (1 Corinthians 1:25).

[#Sermon Link](#)

Upcoming Events:

- **Every Sunday** – No evening activities (prayer, youth, and men’s discipleship groups) this Sunday.
- **VBA** – July 14-18 (Wellesley & Natick)
- **Summer Palooza** – July 20
- [Meal Train sign-ups](#)

Next Sunday’s text: Matthew 13:1-9; **Theme:** The Parable of the Sower