



DIVE DEEPER

YES NO MAYBE

1 People who speak in metaphors and don't just get to the point drive me crazy.

2 Preachers who only speak in theological terms, with no stories bore me.

3 Jesus spoke in parables in order to protect his family.

4 Jesus spoke in parables so that people would misunderstand what he was saying.

5 The Parable of the Sower challenges us to scatter "seeds" regardless of the "soil" it lands.

^| Jesus often spoke in parables. What have you been taught is the reason for this?

READ Matthew 13:3-17

î As you have heard this parable over the years, what application or challenge have you been instructed to do in response to Jesus' words here?

~| Who are we really in this story? The Sower? The seed? The soil? Something else?

~| Parables (παραβολαῖς). From παρά, beside, and βάλλω, to throw. What connection does the word "parable" have with Jesus' first ever parable?

~| Matthew's use of the term "kingdom of heaven"- The "kingdom of God" never includes unsaved people, but the "kingdom of heaven" includes both saved people and also others who profess to be Christians but are not.

^| Jesus replied to his disciples question of why he speaks in parables by saying, "11 You are permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven, but others are not. 12 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."

î What do you think Jesus meant by this? What did Jesus mean by "listen", and did he really mean he would take people's understanding away? Does that sound like a God of love?

~| If someone were to say to you, "If a Christian does not bear fruit, then he does not have faith," how might you respond?



The highest form of selfishness is that of the man who is content to go to heaven alone.

- J. C. Ryle

^| To what degree do you agree or disagree with the quote above? What are the real life challenges that get in the way?

1 Lord, how do I become better soil this week?

2 How can You help me multiply my faith so that I can multiply Your fruit?

3 What do I understand more clearly about Your character, now that I've looked at this Kingdom Tale?

MY
PRAYER

NOTES