

Jesus' Parable of The Sower

Lesson 1
An Introduction To Jesus'
Parables

Introduction

- While Jesus was on earth, He taught about the kingdom of heaven
- As is true today, the people to whom He spoke were hardened against the Word of God
- Although they saw His miracles and heard Him speak, they neither recognized Jesus nor His teaching as being from God

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Introduction

- Therefore, Jesus spoke in parables to conceal truth from the rebellious and reveal truth to the humble
- Today, we are blessed with the parables written for our learning about the kingdom of heaven
- But, do we have enough humility, honesty and desire to understand and apply Jesus' teaching to our lives?

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Introduction

- Jesus provides His parable of the sower as a key to understanding all parables
- In this parable, Jesus reveals the power of the Word of God and the reaction of different kinds of hearts to it
- We study this parable and Jesus' explanation of it so that we may overcome rebellion to His Word and be ready and willing to receive and obey the truth so we may be saved

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An Introduction To Jesus' Parables

1. What is a parable?
2. Why did Jesus teach in parables?
3. How do Jesus' parables apply to us today?
4. Why is the parable of the sower important?

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What Is A Parable?

1. parable (G3850) lit. denotes "a placing beside" (akin to parabolō, "to throw" or "lay beside, to compare"). It signifies "a placing of one thing beside another" with a view to comparison...It is generally used of a somewhat lengthy utterance or narrative drawn from nature or human circumstances, the object of which is to set forth a spiritual lesson, e.g., those in Matthew 13 and Synoptic parallels;

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What Is A Parable?

“sometimes it is used of a short saying or proverb...It is the lesson that is of value; the hearer must catch the analogy if he is to be instructed (this is true also of a proverb).

Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words

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What Is A Parable?

- A parable is an earthly story designed to teach a spiritual lesson through a comparison
- Often the word “parable” is used to identify the story as one
- Further, the word “like” is often used, but not always, to indicate the specific comparison

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What Is A Parable?

Mat 13:31 He presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field;

Mat 13:33 He spoke another parable to them, "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three pecks of flour until it was all leavened."

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Why Did Jesus Teach In Parables?

- Jesus spoke in parables to conceal truth from the multitudes that had chosen to harden their hearts against it
- Jesus also spoke in parables to encourage the interest of the disciples who were seeking truth
- To those disciples, He would explain the parables when they asked Him to do so
- Parables helped separate those who loved truth from those who hated truth

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Why Did Jesus Teach In Parables?

Mat 13:10 And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"

Mat 13:11 Jesus answered them, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted.

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Why Did Jesus Teach In Parables?

Mat 13:12 "For whoever has, to him *more* shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him.

Mat 13:13 "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.

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Why Did Jesus Teach In Parables?

Mat 13:14 "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;

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Why Did Jesus Teach In Parables?

Mat 13:15 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.'

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Why Did Jesus Teach In Parables?

Mat 13:16 "But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear.

Mat 13:17 "For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see *it*, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear *it*.

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Why Did Jesus Teach In Parables?

Mar 4:10 As soon as He was alone, His followers, along with the twelve, *began* asking Him *about* the parables.

Mar 4:11 And He was saying to them, "To you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of God, but those who are outside get everything in parables,

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Why Did Jesus Teach In Parables?

Mar 4:12 so that WHILE SEEING, THEY MAY SEE AND NOT PERCEIVE, AND WHILE HEARING, THEY MAY HEAR AND NOT UNDERSTAND, OTHERWISE THEY MIGHT RETURN AND BE FORGIVEN."

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Why Did Jesus Teach In Parables?

Mar 4:33 With many such parables He was speaking the word to them, so far as they were able to hear it;

Mar 4:34 and He did not speak to them without a parable; but He was explaining everything privately to His own disciples.

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Why Did Jesus Teach In Parables?

Mat 13:34 All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables, and He did not speak to them without a parable.

Mat 13:35 *This* was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: "I WILL OPEN MY MOUTH IN PARABLES; I WILL UTTER THINGS HIDDEN SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD."

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Why Did Jesus Teach In Parables?

Mat 13:36 Then He left the crowds and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field."

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How Do Jesus' Parables Apply To Us Today?

- Jesus' parables reveal the nature of the kingdom of heaven – His church being its earthly manifestation today
- In these parables, we learn of the nature of the King, His kingdom and its citizens
- As Christians now, citizens of His kingdom, these lessons are applicable to us today, increasing faith in Jesus and directing us in righteous conduct

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Subject of Jesus' Parables – The Kingdom of Heaven

Mat 13:24 Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field.

Mat 13:25 "But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away.

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Subject of Jesus' Parables – The Kingdom of Heaven

Mat 13:33 He spoke another parable to them, "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three pecks of flour until it was all leavened."

Mat 13:44 "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid *again*; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

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Subject of Jesus' Parables – The Kingdom of Heaven

Mat 13:45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls,

Mat 13:46 and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

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Why Is The Parable Of The Sower Important?

- It is important because Jesus gives a clear explanation of the parable
- It gives us a clear pattern for how we should understand all parables
- It also provides the reason why Jesus taught in parables – people’s hardness of heart toward the Word of God
- It shows us how all people react to the Word of God so we may adjust our hearts to hear and obey the Word

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Why Is The Parable Of The Sower Important?

Mar 4:13 And He *said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How will you understand all the parables?"

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An Introduction To Jesus’ Parables

1. A parable is an earthly story designed to teach a spiritual lesson through a comparison
2. Jesus taught parables to separate hardened hearts from humble and honest hearts

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An Introduction To Jesus’ Parables

3. Jesus’ parables apply to us because they reveal His kingdom and the righteous conduct of its citizens
4. The parable of the sower is important because it serves as a pattern for understanding all parables
5. The sower reveals how people should and should not respond to the Word of God

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