



Lesson 1: Why Jesus taught in Parables

(Matthew 13:10-16)

Introduction

Why did Jesus teach in parables?

- 1) Parables hide the truth from self-righteous or self-satisfied people who think themselves too sophisticated to learn from Jesus
- 2) Parables reveal truth to souls that are eager to receive Christ and His teaching in childlike faith – those hungering and thirsting for righteousness

Jesus' mercy to rejectors

Mercy 1 – Parables hide truth from those who reject Christ to lessen Divine judgement

Mercy 2 – Parables are memorable and are stored in the mind for future conviction by the Holy Spirit

Parable	Matthew	Mark	Luke
The Purpose of the Parables	13:10–17	4:10–12	8:9–10
The Sower	13:1–9, 18–23	4:1–9, 13–20	8:4–8, 11–15
The Weeds	13:24–30, 36–43	4:26–29	
The Mustard Seed	13:31–32	4:30–32	13:18–19
The Leaven	13:33		13:20–21
The Hidden Treasure	13:44		
The Pearl of Great Value	13:45–46		
The Net	13:47–50		
The Lost Sheep	18:10–14		15:3–7
The Unforgiving Servant	18:23–35		
The Two Sons	21:28–32		
The Tenants	21:33–44	12:1–11	20:9–18
The Wedding Feast	22:1–14		14:16–24
The Ten Virgins	25:1–13		
The Talents	25:14–30		19:11–27
The Good Samaritan			10:29–37
The Rich Fool			12:16–21
The Barren Fig Tree			13:6–9
The Wedding Feast			14:7–11
The Lost Coin			15:8–10
The Prodigal Son			15:11–32
The Dishonest Manager			16:1–9
The Rich Man and Lazarus			16:19–31
The Persistent Widow			18:1–8
The Pharisee and the Tax Collector			18:9–14

What is a Parable?

- It is not an allegory
- It is not a fable
- It is not a myth

Definition 1

- It is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning

Quote, "A parable is art harnessed for service and conflict ... Here we find the reason why the parable is so rare. It requires a considerable degree of art, but art exercised under hard conditions"

Definition 2

- It is an ingeniously simple word picture illuminating a profound spiritual lesson (John MacArthur)

How to interpret parables

- Parables should be understood as containing one simple point

Context for why Jesus taught in parables

(Matthew 12-13)

Jesus' conflict with the religious

Jesus exposes the rejecting heart of the religious

Jesus changes His method of teaching to both reveal and conceal

Matthew 13:12, "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."

Conclusion

Luke 10:23-24, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! ²⁴ For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it."