

Parables

(1) Introduction

Matt 13:10-15

10 And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" 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. 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. 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. 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; 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.' NASU

Why did Jesus teach in parables? ...Mt.13:10-15

After Jesus taught the parable of the sower (13:1-9), what was puzzling His disciples? 13:10

Why are You teaching in parables (without explaining)? These people will not understand.

Who are 'the people' (13:1-2, 10) spoken to in parables?

These are Jews who do NOT believe in Jesus (as Messiah, as Lord, as God). Unsaved.

What is a 'parable'? see Jn.7:46

Parable (parabolais) means 'to throw/cast alongside'. A physical story w/spiritual truth.

And what is Jesus' answer to the disciples question (13:10)? 13:11-13

Believers are granted (enabled) to know (mysteries/kingdom); they (unsaved) are not!

So a parable is *designed* to do what (2) things? 13:12

Reveal spiritual truths to believers. Conceal those same truths from unbelievers. Wow!

What's the progression of spiritual truth to the Jews? 13:14-15,35; ICor.14:21-22; Acts 28:23-29

First they rejected Him(12:24); He then used parables. Finally used tongues. Now nothing!

So what is absolutely the *first step* required for an unbeliever? Rom.10:9-10 note: Lu.16:19-31

Acknowledge your sin, repent of your sin, confess Jesus as Lord of your life. Get saved!

Without salvation, what's the result of hearing spiritual truths? 13:12-13; ICor.2:14

To the unsaved, it's all foolishness. No understanding. They even lose what little they had.

What are the *spiritual truths* Jesus is teaching here? 13:11 Eph.3:1-10; Mt.19:23-24

It's the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. God's secrets, now revealed, only to saved.

And what is the *kingdom of heaven*? Mt.6:9-13

It is the present kingdom (King is absent) and the future kingdom (King reigns here).

Applications:

After rejecting His clear teachings, what was Jesus' action to the unbelieving Jews? 13:34-35

He no longer spoke 'clearly'. He spoke in judgment, in parables. So it is today.

What is the application today? IICor.6:1-2 see Rom.1:18-32

Beware! You 'put off' God's grace at great peril! Reject Him and He rejects you.

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