

# PARABLES OF JESUS

## KNOWING WHAT HE SAID AND WHY

*“And the disciples came, and said unto him,  
Why speakest thou unto them in parables?”*

~ Matthew 13:10

### 1. Purpose of the Parables

- a. Parables are not children’s stories, illustrations, making things easier, or proverbs
- b. Parables are a teaching by comparison; meaning is often hidden in fiction, allegory, riddle
- c. *“Who hath ears to hear, let him hear”*; why parables, why not speak plainly? – Matt 13:9-10
- d. Prophecy refers to Jesus speaking in parables – Eze 12:1-2;17:1-2;20:49; Ps 78:2, Mt 13:34
- e. Parables were given for the wicked generation not to see and hear – Mat 13:11-17; Mk 4:34
- f. *“hear ye indeed, but understand not”* - Isaiah 6:8-10
- g. *“because it is given unto you [little flock] to know the mysteries of the kingdom”* – Mt 13:11

### 2. Teachings of the Parables

- a. The teachings of the kingdom parables echo the plain teachings of Jesus
  - i. Christ came to seek and save that which is lost – Mt 18:11; Lk 19:10
    1. Parable of the lost sheep – Mt 18:12; lost coin – Lk 15:8-10
    2. The good Samaritan – Lk 10:25-37
  - ii. Sell all that ye have for the kingdom – Mt 13:46; Luke 12:33
    1. Parable of the rich man – Lk 12:16-21; Lk 18:25
  - iii. First shall be last; last shall be first – Mt 19:30; Mt 13:31-32
    1. Parable of the faithful servant – Mt 24:45-51
  - iv. Many are called, but few are chosen – Mtt 22:14; 20:16;
    1. Not all enter in; there is a division in Israel – Lk 12:51; Mt 13:47
  - v. Ye shall know them by their fruits (not the seed or plant) – Matt 7:16, 20
    1. Parable of the fig tree – Mt 24:32-33
    2. Parable of the tares – Mt 13:24-30
  - vi. The Lord leaves and returns – Mt 25:14-20
  - vii. Watch; prepare and be ready; for ye know not when – Mt 24:42; Mark 13:33-37
    1. Parable of the ten virgins – Mt 25:14-30
- b. Many parables teach more than one of these principles.
  - i. Parable of the sower – Mk 4:13-23
  - ii. Parable of the Prodigal son – Lk 15:11-32
  - iii. Parable of the marriage feast – Matt 22:2-14

### 3. What We Learn From the Parables

- a. We learn what the remnant needed to know to enter/inherit God’s kingdom
- b. The parables do not reveal the dispensation of God’s grace
- c. Paul did not speak in parables – The wisdom of God in a mystery is now revealed! 1Co 2:7