

Jesus' Parables

Mat 13.35 "I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world." The apostle, Matthew, declared that Jesus, by teaching in parables, was fulfilling an Old Testament scripture written in Psalm 78.2. For these words to be spoken since the beginning of creation, there must be some important revelation going on here that we should sit up and take notice. Most noteworthy to me is that these words of Jesus, that is the "Parable", provide a fresh, new, and unique way for God in the flesh to communicate a message about his kingdom to mankind through a simple earthly event that everyone should recognize. Depth of meaning and application for life's valuable principles that lead to citizenship in his kingdom are now afforded to the minds of hearers without exception to any generation. Jesus proclaimed, "Blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. For I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it." Mat 13.16-17. Referred to also as the "Kingdom Parables", Jesus tells everyone who has eyes to see and ears to hear, about the hidden secrets of the kingdom of heaven and how entry into this eternal place is now possible.

A parable, for Jesus, was a simple story or example of reality, used to illustrate a spiritual or moral principle. His parables are found primarily in the first three Gospels and number about 37. Some parables are unique to that gospel writer's book, others are mentioned by two or all three synoptic gospel writers. The significance of opening one's heart and mind to the meaning of every parable is stated by Jesus in his beatitude discourse with his sermon on the mount: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added unto to you..." Mat 6.33. How can I search for a place and not know where this place is or how this place is described? It would be foolish for anyone to begin a search for a place and not know what they were looking for. Over 30 times in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke the phrase, "kingdom of heaven", is used by Jesus to give us understanding, insight, and incentive to desire, seek, and gain confidence in the eternal reality of this kingdom where eternal existence resides forever. We as a nation just celebrated our 238th birthday as a nation. Our debt of gratitude can never repay the sacrifice made by the colonists who gave birth to our country, our kingdom, for a temporal life. Jesus, the Christ, paid the debt by his sacrifice for all of us to enter his eternal kingdom of heaven for eternal life. With such a grand opportunity that has been afforded us, who would not want to read and learn and search for this kingdom thru learning and applying with child-like fascination the parables of Jesus?

Join us in this series on Jesus' Parables as we learn about subjects such as love, mercy, forgiveness, prayer, humility, and stewardship thru simple stories about planting, soil preparation, weeds, pearls, fishing nets, accounting practices, employee relations, vineyards, weddings, talents, sheep and goats. "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened." Matt 7.7-8. Open our hearts, Lord, that we may have ears to hear and eyes to see and a willing heart to do your will in view of these parables uttered for the first time since the creation of the world.

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