

10. The Parables of Christ

Matthew 13:10-17

Christ did most of His teaching in parables, stories meant to teach spiritual things. He would typically say something like, *“The kingdom of heaven is like....”*

“.... a man which sowed good seed in his field” (Matt. 13:24)

“.... a grain of mustard seed” (v.31)

“.... unto leaven” (v.33)

“.... treasure hid in a field” (v.44)

“.... a merchant man seeking goodly pearls” (v.45)

“.... a net, that was cast into the sea” (v.47).

When Christ taught the multitudes, He only used parables:

Matthew 13:34-35

All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.

[34] 这都是耶稣用比喻对众人说的话；若不用比喻，就不对他们说甚麽。

[35] 这是要应验先知的的话，说：我要开口用比喻，把创世以来所隐藏的事发明出来。

This fulfils the prophecy of Psalm 78:2. But don't you think it strange that He just told them stories, and never taught them any other way? The disciples thought so too:

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

[10] 门徒进前来，问耶稣说：对众人讲话，为甚麽用比喻呢？

Why didn't Christ just teach truth without parables? Many people think it was to help the people understand, but He never gave them an explanation of the parable. He just told the story, then walked off. Because it's not for them:

11 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

[11] 耶稣回答说：因为天国的奥秘只叫你们知道，不叫他们知道。

12 For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.

[12] 凡有的，还要加给他，叫他有馀；凡没有的，连他所有的，也要夺去。

Mark tells us:

Mark 4:33, 34

And with many such parables spake he the word unto them, as they were able to hear it. But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples.

耶稣用许多这样的比喻，照他们所能听的，对他们讲道。若不用比喻，就不对他们讲。没有人的时候，就把一切的道讲给门徒听

It says here, "*as they were able to hear it.*" When He spoke to the multitudes, after giving the story to them without explanation, He often said:

Mark 4:9

He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. 有耳可听的，就应当听。

He challenges them. What are you going to do with this parable? And He left them thinking about it. He only spoke "*as they were able to hear it.*" He never gave them anything they were unable to understand. They were able to hear and understand what He said, but the question is, were they willing?

Most of the crowd were only following Him for the free healthcare. They weren't bothered about His teaching. So those people just drifted off. But if you were there, and wanted to know more, what would you have done? You'd have gone up to Him to ask Him. Christ was always approachable. He would never turn anyone away. And that's why Christ did things like this. He only explained the parables to those who wanted to know more.

Mark 4:10

And when he was alone, they that were about him with the twelve asked of him the parable.

无人的时候，跟随耶稣的人，和十二个门徒，问他这比喻的意思

Do any of us want to know more about God, about the Lord Jesus Christ? Has something been put on our heart to desire to know more about Him? There is something we can do. We can come to church, we can talk to the minister, we can read our Bible, these are all good things, but the best thing of all is that we can ask Christ Himself. Pray to Him. Sit at His feet. Learn of Him. He said:

Matthew 7:7-8

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

你们祈求，就给你们。寻找，就寻见。叩门，就给你们开门。因为凡祈求的，就得着。寻找的，就寻见。叩门的，就给他开门。

Matthew 11:29

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

我心里柔和谦卑，你们当负我的轭，学我的样式，这样，你们心里就必得享安息。

God is looking for people to seek Him with all their heart, not people after something for nothing:

Jeremiah 29:13

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

[13] 你们寻求我，若专心寻求我，就必寻见。

13 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.

[13] 所以我用比喻对他们讲，是因他们看也看不见，听也听不见，也不明白。

If they're not searching, they're never going to understand. And this fulfils prophecy:

14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:

[14] 在他们身上，正应了以赛亚的预言，说：你们听是要听见，却不明白；看是要看见，却不晓得；

15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

[15] 因为这百姓油蒙了心，耳朵发沉，眼睛闭着，恐怕眼睛看见，耳朵听见，心里明白，回转过来，我就医治他们。

But to those who desire to know more, these parables aren't just pretty stories, they teach deep truths about spiritual things:

16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

[16] 但你们的眼睛是有福的，因为看见了；你们的耳朵也是有福的，因为听见了。

17 For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

[17] 我实在告诉你们，从前有许多先知和义人要看你们所看的，却没有看见，要听你们所听的，却没有听见。

We are blessed. Even prophets and righteous men of old time have longed to know these truths, but never had the opportunity. We have far more revelation today. We should be so thankful for the teachings of Christ. Let's long to know more.