



# Introduction to the Parables of Jesus

# What Is a Parable?

- A laying beside; casting alongside - a physical/familiar story alongside a spiritual truth (**Mt. 13:24** - "...may be compared to..."; **Mk. 4:30** "how shall we picture... by what parable shall we present it?")
- An extended simile - often in the form "The kingdom of Heaven is like..."
- The word (παραβολή [parabolē]) can also be used in other ways:
  - A proverb (**Lk. 4:23** - "...this proverb... physician heal yourself")
  - A precept/maxim (**Lk. 14:7-15** - "don't take the chief seats when invited to a dinner")
  - An enigmatic saying (**Mk. 7:14-17** - "there is nothing outside the man which can defile him if it goes into him; but the things which proceed out of the man are what defile the man")
  - A type or symbol of something (**Heb. 9:9** - "a symbol for the present time"; **Heb. 11:19** - "also received him back as a type")

# Why Did Jesus Use Parables?

- To “**conceal**” His teaching
  - From the masses, those with hard hearts and dull of hearing (**Mt. 13:1-3; 10-11, 13-15; Mk. 4:10-12**)
  - “He who has ears, let him hear” (**Mt. 13:9; Mk. 4:9; Lk. 8:8**)
- To “**reveal**” His Teaching
  - “To you it has been granted to know the mysteries...” (**Mt. 13:11-12, 16-17**)
  - After He left the crowd... (**Mt. 13:36**)
  - Explained privately to disciples (**Mk. 4:33-34**)
- To **fulfill** Prophecy (**Mt. 13:34-35; Ps. 78:2**)

# What were many parables describing/explaining?

- The “Kingdom of Heaven” (**Mt. 13:24, 31, 33, 44, 45, 47**)
- The “Kingdom of God” (**Mk. 4:26, 30**)
- The goal of His ministry - “repent for the Kingdom of Heaven/God is at hand” (**Mt. 4:17; Mk. 1:14-15**)
- Why “Heaven” in Matthew and “God” in Mark?

# Parables Unique to Each Gospel

- Parables Unique to **Matthew**

1. Tares (13:24-30)
2. Hidden Treasure (13:44)
3. Pearl of Great Price (13:45-46)
4. Dragnet (13:47-50)
5. Unforgiving Servant (18:23-35)

6. Laborers in Vineyard (20:1-16)
7. Two Sons in Vineyard (21:28-32)
8. Marriage of King's Son (22:1-14)
9. Ten Virgins (25:1-13)
10. The Talents (25:14-30)

# Parables Unique to Each Gospel

- Parables Unique to Mark
  1. The Seed Grows in a Way the Sower doesn't understand (4:26-29)

# Parables Unique to Each Gospel

- Parables Unique to **Luke**
  1. The Two Debtors (7:41-43)
  2. Good Samaritan (10:30-37)
  3. The Friend at Midnight (11:5-8)
  4. The Rich Fool (12:16-21)
  5. Watchful Servants (12:35-40)
  6. Barren Fig Tree (13:6-9)
  7. The Big Dinner (14:16-24)
  8. The Lost Coin (15:8-10)
  9. The Prodigal Son (15:11-32)
  10. The Unrighteous Steward (16:1-13)
  11. The Persistent Widow (18:1-8)
  12. The Pharisee and the Tax Collector (18:9-14)
  13. The Minas (19:11-27)

# Parables Unique to Each Gospel

- Parables Unique to John
  - No parables recorded in John

# Parables Unique to Each Gospel

- Parables Recorded in Matthew and Luke
  1. The Leaven (Mt. 13; Lk. 13)
  2. The Lost Sheep (Mt. 18; Lk. 15)

# Parables Unique to Each Gospel

- Parables Recorded in Matthew, Mark, and Luke
  1. The Soils (Mt. 13; Mk. 4; Lk. 8)
  2. The Mustard Seed (13; 4; 13)
  3. Wicked Vine-Growers (21; 12; 20)
  4. The Fig Tree (24; 13; 21)

# Parable of the Soils (or Sower)

- Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
- Mark 4:1-9; 13-20
- Luke 8:1-8; 11-15
- Summarize the parable.

# Parable of the Soils (or Sower)

- The Seed -
  - Word of the Kingdom (**Mt. 13:19**)
  - The Word (**Mk. 4:14**)
  - The Word of God (**Lk. 8:11**)
- The Soils -
  - Hearts of men (**Mt. 13:19**)

# Parable of the Soils (or Sower)

- The Beside the Road (Wayside) Soil -
  - Hear the Word (**Mt. 13:19**)
  - Do not understand (**Mt. 13:19**)
  - Seed snatched out of their heart by the wicked one (**Mt. 13:19**); Satan (**Mk. 4:15**); the devil (**Lk. 8:12**)
  - Lest they should believe and be saved (**Lk. 8:12**)

# Parable of the Soils (or Sower)

- The Rocky Soil -
  - Hear the Word (**Mt. 13:20**)
  - Immediately receives with joy (**Mt. 13:20**)
  - Believes for a while (**Lk. 8:13**)
  - Has no roots (**Mt. 13:21**) —> immediately stumbles, falls away in times of trial, persecution, temptation (**Mt. 13:21; Mk. 4:17; Lk. 8:13**)

# Parable of the Soils (or Sower)

- The Thorny Soil -
  - Hear the Word (**Mt. 13:22**)
  - The worries of the world, deceitfulness of riches, desires for other things enter in (**Mk. 4:19**); worries, riches, pleasures of this life (**Lk. 8:14**)
  - The word is choked out - becomes unfruitful (**Mt. 13:22; Mk. 4:19**); brings no fruit to maturity (**Lk. 8:14**)

# Parable of the Soils (or Sower)

- The Good Soil -
  - Hears the Word (**Mt. 13:23**)
  - Honest and good heart (**Lk. 8:15**)
  - Understands the Word (**Mt. 13:23**); Accepts the Word (**Mk. 4:20**); Holds fast the Word (**Lk. 8:15**)
  - Bears fruit (**Mt. 13:23; Mk. 4:20**) with perseverance (**Lk. 8:15**)

# Parable of the Soils (or Sower)

- Applications?

