



# WORD OF FAITH INT'L CHRISTIAN CENTER

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## The Parables of Jesus, Part 1

by Bishop Keith Butler | Bible Study Notes | Sunday, October 24, 2021

Text: Mark 4:13

### Opening Summary

Jesus said the parable of the sower is the most important of all parables. It's the one through which you understand all parables. In this lesson, we will discover why Jesus spoke in parables rather than in plain speech. And we will see how receiving revelation from God is what opens the door to the Blessing from heaven.

- I. A parable is a symbolic narrative of common life, conveying a moral adage. (short story illustration conveying a point or points). The scripture records over 30 of these in the gospels. Five are found in one teaching.
- II. Mat. 13:1-3: Jesus teaches in terms of agriculture, because that's very familiar to them.
  - A. Mat. 13:3-4: Wayside seed is sown on top of the ground and easily eaten by birds.
  - B. Mat. 13:5,6: Stony ground is shallow ground. There's not much protection. The sun's rays penetrate the soil and burns the seed. It can't take root on shallow ground.
  - C. The seed sprung up, but it didn't last because it wasn't watered (Luke 8:6, 14).
  - D. Mat. 13:7: Thorns sprung up all around the seed and suffocated it.
  - E. Mat. 13:8: From one seed 100 plants can be produced.
    1. An honest and good heart, and patience produce 100-fold (Luke 8:15).
    2. Different seasons bring different controversy, people, circumstances.
    3. Mat. 13:8: This seed, correctly planted with much concern given to it, produced up to 100 plants for every seed planted.
    4. Mat. 13:9: The seed must be highly valued. **Greatly value this teaching!**
    5. The seed is the Word of God (Mark 4:14; Rom. 1:16).
- III. Mat. 13:10-15: Why did Jesus teach in parables rather than speak plainly?
  - A. Jesus is giving them this revelation, because it is their time of visitation.
  - B. The disciples had given all to follow Jesus (Mark 10:17-30).
    1. The rest were there for what they could get from Jesus.
    2. They were the same ones that shouted, "Crucify Him!"
  - C. Jesus taught in parables because of this *kingdom of God principle* found in Mat. 13:12.
    1. God doesn't change. This principle still applies today (Heb. 13:8; Mal. 3:6).
    2. If you are committed to God, more revelation will be given to you. If you are not committed to God, you'll lose the revelation you have.
3. Mat. 13:13-14: Your hearts, eyes, and ears are soft and open to me; you want to hear the truth.

- a. Isaiah was a prophet to Israel and Judah, the Jewish people (Isa. 6:1-9).
  - b. Jesus' ministry was to the Jewish people (Mat. 15:25-30).
  - c. If they change, they would be healed (Isa. 6:10).
  - d. Isaiah prophesied about the diaspora when the Jews would be scattered out of Israel all over the world (Isa. 6:11-12). It's now history.
    - 1) It happened because they rejected the Word.
    - 2) They got the curse side of Deu. 28 (Rom. 6:23).
  - e. They rejected Jesus, and they were scattered out of their land (Luke 19:44).
  - f. There is a remnant (tenth) that will remain (Isa. 6:13).
    - 1) David declared Jerusalem the capital of Israel 3,500 years ago before Palestinians ever existed.
    - 2) A remnant remained in Israel, about 600,000.
    - 3) They returned to their land as a teil tree: a tree that can be destroyed at the top, but later grow new stocks and stems.
    - 4) May 14, 1948, Prime Minister David Ben Guerin declared Israel a nation.
    - 5) The US, under Pres. Harry S. Truman, was the first nation to supported it.
  - g. Isa. 6:13: The Holy Seed is Jesus (Isa. 53:5-6; 1 Pet. 2:24-25)
  - 4. Mat. 13:14: *Understand* (Gk.: suniemi) means *to put together, consider*.
  - 5. Mat. 13:15: Their problems were as follows:
    - a. They had a hard heart.
    - b. *They* closed their hearing. They didn't want to hear the truth.
    - c. *They* closed their eyes. They saw evil but ignored it.
- IV. The church is built on revelation from God (Mat. 16:15-18).
- A. Satan cannot successfully go against the church that has revelation from God.
  - B. Satan can take down the church that does not have revelation from God.
- V. Mat. 13:15: They can change at any time, and at any point things can change for them.
- A. *They* can see with their eyes
  - B. *They* can hear with their ears
  - C. *They* can understand with their heart (Rom. 10:17).
  - D. God will make them whole – they shall lack nothing.
- VI. Mat. 13:16: Blessed means happy, fortunate and to be envied. You get to learn the secrets which no one has understood.
- A. Mat. 13:17: God is making those secrets available to you now.
  - B. You are blessed if you have ears to hear and eyes to see.
  - C. Mat. 11:28: The parable of the sower is the most powerful parable Jesus taught.

### Closing Summary

We have seen that Jesus spoke in parables and revealed their meaning to His disciples because they wanted to hear from heaven. Jesus said the key to understanding all parables is understanding the parable of the sower. Therefore, let's give it full attention as we move forward in the study of the parables of Jesus.