

# Parables – It's Like....

## Parables -

*“The word parable means to ‘cast alongside’. A parable is a story that teaches something new by putting the truth alongside something familiar. A parable starts off as a picture that is familiar to the listeners. But as you carefully consider the picture, it becomes a mirror in which you can see yourself, and many people do not ask for help, then the mirror becomes a window through which we see God and His grace. To understand a parable and benefit from it, demands honesty and humility on our part.”*

Warren Wiersbe

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*“The primary purpose of the parables is to reveal some aspect of the coming of the kingdom of God in the person and teaching of Jesus. But Jesus also intended that the parables conceal his teaching while being a vehicle for it. Even the disciples of Jesus did not understand the parables without fail. But their adherence to Jesus caused them to seek and receive understanding of the parables. Understanding is made subject to whether a listener is willing to identify with Jesus or wishes to remain ‘outside’ (hold Jesus at arms length). The disciples inquiry arose from commitment and was itself hearing which was in contrast with others failure to hear.”*

Eerdmans Bible Dictionary

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Parables , What do We Know?

1. They used everyday objects, events and images to communicate important truth.

-Matthew 13: 1-7

2. They were designed to test, not the intelligence but the spiritual responsiveness of the hearer.

-Matthew 13:11-13

3. Great insight about God and his Kingdom can be ours by listening carefully to these parables

-Matthew 13:16-17

# Parables – It's Like....

## 1. Need to Understand Setting:

- the everyday objects and customs need to be understood
- identify the statements that might impact the audience
- see the story for it's point – easy to debate the details

## 2. Our Posture and Attitude Matter

- *“though seeing they do not see; though hearing they do not understand” Matt, 13:13*

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- *“This is why I speak to them in parables: "Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: " 'You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.' But 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.” Matt. 13-17*

# Parables – It's Like....

- calloused hearts – need to be soft and sensitive
- hardly hear with ears – implied slow loss of hearing, suggests that detecting message difficult
- closed their eyes – willful, not looking, desiring not to know, decision not to look and see

## 3. Life in the Kingdom of Heaven

- All disciples of Jesus are Kingdom representatives
- Ambassadors of the Kingdom reflect the values and principles of the Kingdom

# Parables – It's Like....

So What

## 1. Decide to Investigate The Story:

- what were the cultural values, how familiar would they have been with the story, what would have shocked them, confused them?
- seek to know the context and place yourself in the seat of those ready to hear

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## 2. Adjust Posture and Attitude –

- spend time in quiet, reflect, repent – scrape the calloused heart and come ready to hear from God's truth
- sharpen your listening skills, make notes, speak with others, but remember to take time to hear what God is saying to your heart and life
- open your eyes – easier not to know some of these truths, might be unpleasant to change, can sit through – forget – leave without life change. Decide to look intently into the truth!



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## 3. Investigate Life in the Kingdom of God

- We are the reflection to our world
- We must understand and embrace the values, principles, those things that bring life and blessing
- Remember – you cannot serve two kingdoms, God has revealed what you need to know, God has enabled life change – will you investigate and embrace the truth?