



PARABLES – The Stories Jesus Told

Jesus sometimes taught in parables because these vivid stories engage us in thought, emotion, and sensation. They impact us. They force us to go away and ponder, struggling with the meaning perhaps, feeling struck by the truthful and accurate perspective on life they offer. A parable compares something familiar to something unfamiliar. It helps us understand spiritual truth by using everyday objects and relationships. Parables compel us to discover truth, while at the same time concealing the truth from those too lazy or too stubborn to see it. To those who are honestly searching, the truth becomes clear. This series invites transformation as you discover fresh truth about Jesus, yourself, and others.

A Man knows that his heart must be soft to the Word of God

The Parable of the Soils Matthew 13:1-23.

October 26, 2017
Highland Colony Men's Roundtable
www.MensTable.com

Bible Verses: Matthew 13:1-23; Isaiah 55:11; Deut. 8:11-14
Music: CONNIE FRANCIS - My Heart Has a Mind of Its Own
Passion - The Heart of Worship (Live) ft. Matt Redman
Videos: Luther - Documentary Official Trailer
Luther - Diet of Worms

Resources: *Parables—The Mysteries of God's Kingdom Revealed Through the Stories Jesus Told* - John MacArthur
10 Parables of Jesus: Poking Holes in Religious Balloons - Jamie Buckingham

Jesus Told Stories

1. _____ > This Parable is the most revealing of all Jesus' parables with regard to how the Kingdom will shape up, who will oppose it, how the Kingdom will shape up, will oppose it, how people will enter presumptuously and then fall away, and who will give you a firm understanding as to what to expect as the Gospel takes root in your own life.
2. _____ > Jesus was about the establishing the Kingdom of God. Jews were looking for Jesus to overthrow the Romans and establish Israel as the leading kingdom of the world. Most were disappointed in Jesus' continuous emphasis on a "Kingdom within" rather than an earthly Kingdom. The Parables of Matthew 13 show how the Kingdom was (and is) to enter and spread throughout the entire world first. Only then would come the final climax.

The Seed > The Word of God

1. _____ > The seed does not always take root because of the condition of the soil. The seed is Good (Isaiah 55:11).
2. _____ > The Word of God sheds light on human nature, world problems and human suffering.
3. _____ > The message of the Bible is the message of Jesus Christ (John 14:6). It is the story of salvation, the story of your redemption and mine through Christ; the story of life, of peace, of eternity.
4. _____ > Our faith is not dependent upon human knowledge and scientific advance, but upon the unmistakable message of the Word of God.
5. _____ > In the Scripture, we find the answers to life's ultimate questions: Where did I come from? Why am I here? Where am I going? What is the purpose of my existence?

The Four Soils > The Hearts of Men.

1. _____ > The man who is unable to receive truth. Few things are as tragic as the closed mind where truth never takes root because the soil never changes in consistency.
2. _____ > The man who receives the truth, it begins to take root, but since it is not nourished, since the it is not nourished, since the soil it falls into is shallow and stony, it quickly dies. Jesus says to beware of superficial enthusiasm that doesn't have a root system with it (Deut. 8:11-14).
3. _____ > The man who hears the truth and it falls among thorns. This represents the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth. The thorns quickly choke the life out of the new little plants. This is the saddest of all the experiences—to see a man deliberately choose the wrong value system—rejecting the Kingdom of God for the kingdom of this world—can be described in no other word than SAD.
4. _____ > The man who hears the word and understands it—letting it take root until it produced a crop. His heart is soft and receptive. It is sensitive to the needs of others. It is tender toward the helpless and hopeless. It knows the pain of the digging up the hardness—being broken. Jesus closes His parable with a wonderful promise of seed that produces other seed—a 100, 60, 30 times more than was sown.

ACTION: Journal This!

1. What do you believe about the Bible?
2. What condition is your heart to receive truth? To love others? To acknowledge your own brokenness? To change?
3. How are you reproducing?

Bible Verses – New Living Translation

Matthew 13:1-23 - 1 Later that same day Jesus left the house and sat beside the lake. 2 A large crowd soon gathered around him, so he got into a boat. Then he sat there and taught as the people stood on the shore. 3 He told many stories in the form of parables, such as this one: "Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seeds. 4 As he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate them. 5 Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. 6 But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn't have deep roots, they died. 7 Other seeds fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants. 8 Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted! 9 Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand." 10 His disciples came and asked him, "Why do you use parables when you talk to the people?" 11 He replied, "You are permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven, but others are not. 12 To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given, and they will have an abundance of knowledge. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them. 13 That is why I use these parables, For they look, but they don't really see. They hear, but they don't really listen or understand. 14 This fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah that says, 'When you hear what I say, you will not understand. When you see what I do, you will not comprehend. 15 For the hearts of these people are hardened, and their ears cannot hear, and they have closed their eyes— so their eyes cannot see, and their ears cannot hear, and their hearts cannot understand, and they cannot turn to me and let me heal them.' 16 "But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear.

17 I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but they didn't see it. And they longed to hear what you hear, but they didn't hear it. 18 "Now listen to the explanation of the parable about the farmer planting seeds: 19 The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message about the Kingdom and don't understand it. Then the evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts. 20 The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. 21 But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word. 22 The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God's word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth, so no fruit is produced. 23 The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!"

Isaiah 55:11 - 11 It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.

Deut. 8:11-14 - 11 "But that is the time to be careful! Beware that in your plenty you do not forget the LORD your God and disobey his commands, regulations, and decrees that I am giving you today. 12 For when you have become full and prosperous and have built fine homes to live in, 13 and when your flocks and herds have become very large and your silver and gold have multiplied along with everything else, be careful! 14 Do not become proud at that time and forget the LORD your God, who rescued you from slavery in the land of Egypt.

"My Heart Has a Mind of Its Own"

Connie Francis
I told this heart of mine
Our love could never be
But then I hear your voice
And something stirs inside of me

Somehow I can't dismiss
The memory of your kiss
Guess my heart has a mind of its own

No matter what I do
No matter what I say

No matter how I try
I just can't turn the other way

When I'm with someone new
I always think of you
Guess my heart has a mind of its own

You're not in love with me
So why can't I forget?
I'm just your "used-to-be"
It's wrong and yet

I know forgetting you
Would be a hopeless thing
For I'm a puppet and I
Just can't seem to break the string

I say I'll let you go
But then my heart says no
Guess my heart has a mind of its own
Guess my heart has a mind of its own

THE HEART OF WORSHIP

Matt Redman

When the music fades
All is stripped away,
And I simply come
Longing just to bring
Something that's of worth
That will bless Your heart

I'll bring You more than a song, for a song in itself
Is not what You have required
You search much deeper within through the way things appear
You're looking into my heart

[Chorus]
I'm coming back to the heart of worship
And it's all about You, all about You, Jesus

I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it
When it's all about You, all about You, Jesus

King of endless worth
No one could express how much You deserve
Though I'm weak and poor
All I have is Yours, ev'ry single breath

I'll bring You more than a song, for a song in itself
Is not what You have required
You search much deeper within through the way things appear
You're looking into my heart

[Chorus]

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par • a • ble(s)

an earthly story

with a spiritual truth



PARABLES – THE STORIES JESUS TOLD

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The Parable of the Soils

Matthew 13:1-23

Jesus Told Stories

1. **Tell Stories** > This Parable is the most revealing of all Jesus' parables with regard to how the Kingdom will shape up, who will oppose it, how the Kingdom will shape up, will oppose it, how people will enter presumptuously and then fall away, and who will give you a firm understanding as to what to expect as the Gospel takes root in your own life.
1. **The Kingdom Within** > Jesus was about the establishing the Kingdom of God. Jews were looking for Jesus to overthrow the Romans and establish Israel as the leading kingdom of the world. Most were disappointed in Jesus' continuous emphasis on a "Kingdom within" rather than an earthly Kingdom. The Parables of Matthew 13 show how the Kingdom was (and is) to enter and spread throughout the entire world first. Only then would come the final climax.

The Seed > The Word of God

1. **Rooted** > The seed does not always take root because of the condition of the soil. The seed is Good (Isaiah 55:11).
2. **Real Authority** > The Word of God sheds light on human nature, world problems and human suffering.
3. **Reveals the Way to God** > The message of the Bible is the message of Jesus Christ (John 14:6). It is the story of salvation, the story of your redemption and mine through Christ; the story of life, of peace, of eternity.
4. **Reliable Truth** > Our faith is not dependent upon human knowledge and scientific advance, but upon the unmistakable message of the Word of God.
5. **Relevant to YOU** > In the Scripture, we find the answers to life's ultimate questions: Where did I come from? Why am I here? Where am I going? What is the purpose of my existence?

The Four Soils > The Hearts of Men.

1. **The Hard Heart** > The man who is unable to receive truth. Few things are as tragic as the closed mind where truth never takes root because the soil never changes in consistency.
2. **The Stony Heart** > The man who receives the truth, it begins to take root, but since it is not nourished, since the it is not nourished, since the soil it falls into is shallow and stony, it quickly dies. Jesus says to beware of superficial enthusiasm that doesn't have a root system with it (Deut. 8:11-14).

The Four Soils > The Hearts of Men.

3. **The Cluttered Heart** > The man who hears the truth and it falls among thorns. This represents the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth. The thorns quickly choke the life out of the new little plants. This is the saddest of all the experiences—to see a man deliberately choose the wrong value system—rejecting the Kingdom of God for the kingdom of this world—can be described in no other word than SAD.
4. **The Soft Heart** > The man who hears the word and understands it—letting it take root until it produced a crop. His heart is soft and receptive. It is sensitive to the needs of others. It is tender toward the helpless and hopeless. It knows the pain of the digging up the hardness—being broken. Jesus closes His parable with a wonderful promise of seed that produces other seed—a 100, 60, 30 times more than was sown.

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