



## Why Parables?

**Text:** Matthew 13: 1-3, 10-17; 34-35, 51-53; Mark 4:21-25

**Prayer:**

**Icebreaker:** The Bible is filled with various forms of speech including poems, proverbs, songs, prayers, legal proclamations, praise, commendation, personal letters, apocalyptic visions, and parables or word pictures, etc.

What do you expect after hearing the following lines?

*Once upon a time...* You expect a \_\_\_\_\_.

*Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today...*

You expect a \_\_\_\_\_ or a \_\_\_\_\_.

*The party of the first part assigns to the party of the second part...*

You expect a \_\_\_\_\_ document.

*How do I love you? Let me count the ways...* You expect a \_\_\_\_\_.

*Open your Bibles to Matthew 13...* You expect a \_\_\_\_\_ or Bible \_\_\_\_\_.

*Dear Heavenly Father...* you expect a \_\_\_\_\_.

*Behold, a sower went out to sow...* You expect a \_\_\_\_\_ or a Bible \_\_\_\_\_.

1. How would a boat be a perfect platform for Jesus to use to teach the multitudes?  
Matthew 13:1-2

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2. What effective method of teaching did Jesus use when speaking to unbelievers?  
Matthew 13:3, 9, 10, 34

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3. What is a parable?

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4. Talk about how simple stories and illustrations (parables) can be effective in catching the ear and stimulating the interest of those who have become dull of hearing toward spiritual things? Verse 9

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5. What is the overall theme of Jesus' parables in Matthew 13, which the disciples could understand but unbelievers could not? Verses 11, 16  
Luke 17:20-21; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4

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6. What is a Bible mystery? 1 Corinthians 2:6-8; Colossians 1:26-27

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7. Was Jesus trying to hide the truth from the unbelieving multitude by using parables? Verses 12-15, 34-35; Mark 4:21-25

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With the Holy Spirit's enablement, a parable reaches out and grabs the hardened and blinded heart and makes it see and feel the truth. A parable rings with truth that may be heard by spiritually deafened ears. A parable's *down to earth* simple illustration awakens minds hardened to the truth. When a parable opens the ears and eyes and mind even a little, then the person may long to know more of the truth.

8. What affect did Isaiah's proclamation of the truth have on unbelieving Israel? Isaiah 6:9-10

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Jesus never pretended to be teaching when He was really attempting to hide the truth. To accuse Him of such would be to accuse Him of dishonesty. A parable is an aid to stimulate interest and to provoke thoughtfulness. It veils the truth, not that men may not grasp it, but that we might come to comprehend it.

9. What responsibility do Christians have regarding the truth God has already revealed to us? Verses 51-52

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### Think About it this week:

A parable is an aid to stimulate interest and to provoke thoughtfulness. It veils the truth, not that men may not grasp it, but that we might come to comprehend it. As with the sun, without sunglasses we could not look at it at all. And so it is with a parable. In clothing the light of truth with a tangible illustration we are able to see the truth more clearly.