

Introduction to the Parables of Jesus

Pastor Mark Wilks, MATTHEW 13:10-17

1. What is a Parable?

- The classic definition of a parable is “an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.”
- A parable unexplained is a riddle.

2. Why did Jesus speak in Parables?

- Jesus spoke in parables as a response to their unbelief. Mt. 13:14, 12:14
- When Jesus spoke in parables it was a judgement. Mark 4:10–12
- “They (parables) are not neat little stories that make things clear. They are actually puzzling stories that invite you in!” Tim Mackie

3. How do we learn from Parables?

- We treat each parable as unique. There is no formula or pattern.
- We look for the indicators:
 - a) The original audience
 - b) The original setting
 - c) The aha moment
 - The connection point
 - The sucker punch – unexpected turn
 - The point of view
 - d) The (KEY) is the response of the original audience
- The problem is not with understanding but with letting the parables alter our behavior!

Application:

- 1) Each parable contains theology! Is my heart open to learn what God has for me?
- 2) Am I willing to see myself in each parable even when it is difficult to face?
- 3) For His kingdom to come, will I choose to allow the King to rule in my heart?