

Message Notes

Why Does Jesus Speak in Parables?

Matthew 13:10-17

Parables of the Kingdom, part 2

June 26, 2005

Lord Jesus Christ,

I need you.

I see, hear and understand now that I am more sinful than I ever before believed, but more loved by you than I ever dared hope.

I desperately need the salvation and new life that you accomplished through your perfect life and death on the cross.

I understand that you lived the life that I should be living and you died the death that I deserve. Today, I repent and I believe.

I turn away from my sin and my self-effort,

and I place my complete trust in your finished work on the cross.

I receive you as my Sovereign Lord and my Savior from sin.

Save me and change me. Amen.

grace
San Luis Obispo

Message Outline

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I. The “CONCEALING” work of the Parables.

A. Observations:

1. The parables conceal truth from those who see the Gospel, but have closed their eyes. (13:13)
2. The parables conceal truth from those who hear the Gospel, but will not hear. (13:13)
3. The parables conceal truth from those whose hearts have become dull. (13:15)
4. The parables conceal truth from those refuse to believe, repent and respond to the person and message of Jesus.

B. Conclusion: The “concealing” work of the parables is an exercise of God’s just judgment toward responsible, but rejecting human agents. (Doctrine of Human Responsibility)

C. Application: This truth should move us to respond in faith and repentance to what we know about the person and work of Jesus Christ.

II. The “REVEALING” work of the Parables.

A. Observations:

1. Surprisingly, the disciples are not affirmed here for their faith, repentance and response to Jesus.
2. The disciples see, hear and know because it has been “granted” to them. (13:11)
3. To the disciples, who have, more will be given. (13:12)
4. The disciples’ eyes and ears have been blessed to see and hear. (13:16)

B. Conclusion: The “revealing” work of the parables is an exercise of God’s sovereign grace toward lost, blind, dumb, dead, desperate sinners. (Doctrine of God’s Sovereignty)

C. Application: This truth should move us to respond in gratitude, wonder and humility toward God, who has graciously “granted” us to see the mysteries of the kingdom of God in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Growth Group Understanding Questions

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1. Read Matthew 13:10-17 again. What is the question that drives this text? What is the answer that Jesus gives?
2. Jesus quotes an Old Testament passage to explain why he teaches in parables. What is that passage? Go back and read the larger context.
3. What evidence in the surrounding context of Matthew do we have that the Pharisees and larger crowds are seeing but not seeing and hearing but not hearing? (Hint: Go all the way back to 11:20!)
4. Why are the disciples those who see, hear and know the mysteries of the kingdom of God?

Growth Group Application Questions

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1. What was the most encouraging or challenging thing about our message/text this week? What was new?
2. How does this text remind us of the doctrine of “human responsibility”? How does this text remind us of the doctrine of “divine sovereignty”?
3. The apparent paradox between “divine sovereignty” and “human responsibility” raises a lot of questions that can hinder our fellowship with God. How does Jesus respond to these twin truths in 11:25-27?
4. What should the truth of our “human responsibility” move us toward? What should the truth of “divine sovereignty” move us toward?