

The Mystery of Parables

“Have you heard about that man from Nazareth who is doing miracles and His name is Jesus?” “Oh, yes, we heard about Him. He is moving from place to place, we met Him last Friday in the church and many people were blessed by His presence. He scattered His grace over us. There were sick people and were healed. One family brought a lame and left the church walking. We saw a blind and the Lord opened His eyes. He is really wonderful.” “Yes, He is Jesus; God who came to save us. Come, let us meet Him! Hurry, let us go!”

“That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around Him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then He told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow His seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell on the good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. He who has ears, let him hear.” (Matthew 13:1-9)

Did you hear what He says? So beautiful story!” “You are right, and I felt the peace inside me when I heard His words. But, did you understand what this story of the farmer about?”

From the cities and villages, a large crowd of people gathered around Jesus today. They heard about Him so they come to listen and to explore what they have been taught about Jesus. But, they found something different today. They were used to receive perfect things from Jesus. He used to satisfy their daily needs, everything well-prepared before He delivered it faithfully to them. But, Jesus noticed that some people do not give reverence to what He is giving them. So, He spoke differently.

The Gospel according to Matthew informed us that before Jesus spoke in parable He was doing many miracles and driving out demons. Yet, the Pharisees were doubting and speaking against Him. They even asked for a sign to prove that He came from heaven. Even His relatives and those close to Him were not totally persuaded to believe in Him and so tried to stop Him.

Many were gathered around Him that even no place left for Him to stand. Then He chose to sit on a boat to address His message to the people who stood at the shore site. But out of this large crowd can we tell what is the percentage of those who diligently seek the Lord? Many have heard but understood nothing. Many have heard, claimed that they understood, but they did not discern the real meaning. Because Jesus spoke in parables.

From the beginning of Matthew Chapter 13, the Lord Jesus speaks to the people with a different style of language, ‘beautiful to the ears but not understandable to the mind.’ It is the language of the parables as God said in His word, **“O My people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter hidden things of old.” (Psalm 78:1-2)**

And that is really what has taken place. After Jesus finished narrating the above chosen parable, the disciples came to Him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?” Neither the people nor the disciples understood what He meant by the parable of the sower. “He replied, **‘The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Whoever has will be**

given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.’”

1. Jesus spoke in parables about the secrets of God’s kingdom: Jesus speech is different from the other people’s talk. He speaks about the secrets but not gossip talks, precious-jewels and pearls but untouchable, and crucial but delightful matters in the kingdom of God.

2. Jesus spoke in parables to give God’s secrets to those who truly seek Him: A parable is first of all a story that speaks about earthly elements, but reflects the heart and the reality of spiritual facts. The parables of Jesus are unique in their arrangements. They declare secrets to those who seek and believe in Jesus, and to those who keep the word of God with respect and reverence in their hearts: **“Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance.”** In contrary, parables hide pearls and jewels, treasures, knowledge, and wisdom, God’s secrets and heavenly things from those who do not believe in Jesus. These are given to their hands but they could not perceive truths. **“Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand.”**

3. Jesus taught in parables not because His hearers did not understand, but so that they would not understand: Those who are lazy, careless, and not concern about the word of God, Jesus will take back what was given to them. **“Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. This is why I speak to them in parables.”**

“For this people’ heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they closed their eyes.” This is real the description of those arrogant and lofty people from whom the Lord wants to take back what He has given them. Their hearts are hardened and their lack of humbleness cause them to close their eyes so they hardly see, listen or learn.

What shall we do to perceive what the Lord said? Simply, as the disciples came to Jesus and searched for His counsel, we have to do the same. We have to humble ourselves in front of Him and ask Him to teach us, for Parables are part of Jesus’ Mystery. They do not make senses to those who are only interested in the superficial knowledge but gives wisdom to those who understand the mission of Christ, and are willing to share it. The Old and New Testaments contain many beautiful stories carrying the mystery of God. Let us read and meditate every word written in the Bible. Let us seek the Lord in prayer, and He will explain to us through the Holy Spirit what God wants us to know and do. The Lord will open to us new means to comprehend what we daily read and hear from the Bible, to understand and apply His word in our lives. This is the best teaching, and this is the best learning facility.

My Dear and Beloved: The Lord’s love and compassion is abundant. When His disciples come to Him He explains to them the meaning of the parable of the sower. He is happy with our coming to Him, He speaks to us and we hear from Him. **“...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.”** Therefore let us commit ourselves to Him as we agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord I humble myself before you and I repent from the following sins _____.* *Lord takes away all my pride and my shortcoming. I want to be in your presence and to hear clear word and teaching from your mouth. Speak to me and guide me in the way I should go, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.*