

Parables in Matthew

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In our meeting this month we continue to reflect on parables; looking at those recorded in Matthew Chapter 13.

Almost a third of Jesus' teaching was in parables, an earthly story with a heavenly (spiritual) meaning. According to [Mark 4:34a](#), "He did not say anything to them without using a parable."

His disciples asked Him "Why do you speak to the people in parables?" [Matthew 13:10](#).

Jesus explained that His use of parables had a two-fold purpose: to reveal the truth to those who wanted to know it and to conceal the truth from those who were indifferent. In the previous chapter [Matthew 12](#), the Pharisees had publicly rejected their Messiah and blasphemed the Holy Spirit, thus committing the unpardonable sin [Matthew 12:22-32](#). They fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy of a hardhearted, spiritually blind people [Isaiah 6:9-10](#). Those who, like the Pharisees, had a preconceived bias against the Lord's teaching would dismiss the parables as irrelevant nonsense. However, those who truly sought the truth would understand.

SCRIPTURE VERSES

[Matthew 13:1-9](#) The parable of the Sower

[Matthew 13:24-30](#) The parable of the Good Seed and Tares

[Matthew 13:31-32](#) The parable of the Mustard Seed

[Matthew 13:33](#) The parable of the Yeast

[Matthew 13:44](#) The parable of the Hidden Treasure

[Matthew 13:45-46](#) The parable of the Pearl

[Matthew 13:47-49](#) The parable of the Net

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DISCUSSION THOUGHTS:

All the parables, except the first, begin with “The kingdom of heaven is like”. We will look briefly at each one, bearing in mind the context and who Jesus was speaking to.

1. The parable of the Sower, see also [Mark 4:1-20](#) , [Luke 8:4-15](#)
 - Explained by our Lord [Matt 13:18-23](#)
2. The parable of the Good Seed and Tares
 - Explained by our Lord [Matt 13:36-43](#)
3. The parable of the Mustard Seed, see also [Mark 4:30-32](#)
 - What does the mustard seed represent? And the growth?
 - Who are the birds that lodge in the branches?
4. The parable of the Yeast (also [Luke 13:20-21](#))
 - What does the leaven signify?
 - Why three measures of meal? (KJV)
5. The parable of the Hidden Treasure
 - What is the treasure? Who is the man?
 - Why did the man hide the treasure? What did the man sell?
6. The parable of the Pearl
 - Who is the merchant man?
 - What does the pearl represent?
7. The parable of the Net
 - Who are the good and bad fish? [Matt 7:21-23](#)
 - What happens to the fish, when and by whom?
8. In these parables Jesus said “Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.”
 - What did He mean by this? [Matt 13:10-15](#) , [1 Cor 2:14](#)
9. Jesus prefixed these parables by “The kingdom of heaven is like...”
 - The phrase “The kingdom of heaven” is used exclusively in the gospel of Matthew. Is this different from “The kingdom of God”? [1 Cor 15:24](#)
10. Are these parables still relevant for us today?
 - The disciples confirmed they understood the parables [Matt 13:51](#)
 - What is the new and old treasure [Matt 13:52](#)