

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. **2** Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. **3** Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. **4** As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. **5** Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. **6** But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. **7** Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. **8** Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. **9** Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

10 The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?”

11 He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. **12** Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. **13** This is why I speak to them in parables:

“Though seeing, they do not see;
though hearing, they do not hear or understand.

14 In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:

““You will be ever hearing but never understanding;
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.

15

For this people’s heart has become calloused;
they hardly hear with their ears,
and they have closed their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes,
hear with their ears, understand with their

hearts

and turn, and I would heal them.’[a]

16 But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. **17** For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

Jesus use of parables:

Parables are not moral fables, riddles, or tales.

They are not allegories in which every detail must be decoded.

They are comparisons with a point, sometimes several points, always aimed at the hearer.

Drawn from everyday life.

A parable sets a familiar scene next to an unfamiliar truth so that the hearer sees one in light of the other.

Jesus used them to announce the kingdom of God and to press a decision on his hearers.

He did not invent the form. The Old Testament already used parables and comparisons, and Jewish teachers of his day told stories to illuminate Scripture.

What is unique is the authority with which Jesus told them and the way he made the kingdom of God, and himself, the subject of every one.

Parables function as a kind of filter.

They served both to reveal and to conceal.

Those who were open received more understanding; those who had already hardened themselves found the stories easy to dismiss.

This does not mean Jesus was deliberately cruel. It means he was honest.

Truth refused hardens a person, and the parables exposed what was already in the heart.

Jesus taught in parables in order to expose a person's spiritual condition.

The parables are more like thermometers than thermostats;

They reveal a person's spiritual condition more than they regulate it.

That is why Jesus repeatedly says, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear"

A common misreading treats every parable as a moral fable about some generic virtue, so the prodigal son becomes a lesson about forgiveness in families and the good Samaritan becomes a lesson about helping strangers. That reading is not entirely wrong, but it is incomplete. It detaches the stories from Jesus and from the kingdom He announced.

When the parables are moralized, the hearer leaves impressed by an example instead of confronted by a king. The point is not that we should try harder; it is that the kingdom has come near in Jesus and must be received or rejected.

Simply put, Jesus teaches in parables to demonstrate the need for divine revelation to understand the mysteries of the kingdom and to reveal the spiritual condition of his listeners.

4 Soils in Parable of the Sower:

- Hard Path: Represents those who hear the Word but do not accept it, leading to spiritual blindness.
- Rocky Ground: Symbolizes individuals who initially embrace the message but lack depth, resulting in a quick decline when faced with challenges.

- Thorny Ground: Reflects those who start well but are sidetracked by life's distractions, preventing spiritual growth.
- Good Soil: Denotes a receptive heart that not only hears the Word but also holds it fast, leading to a fruitful life.

The OT is the NT concealed

The NT is the OT revealed

Isaiah, Jesus, Paul: THE 3 C'S

Clogged Ears, Closed Eyes, Calloused Hearts

Isaiah 6 - His commission

Isaiah Called to Be a Prophet:

6 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. 2 Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered

his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one cried to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
The whole earth is full of His glory!”

4 And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.

5 So I said:

“Woe is me, for I am [a]undone!
Because I am a man of unclean lips,
And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips;
For my eyes have seen the King,
The Lord of hosts.”

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. 7 And he touched my mouth with it, and said:

“Behold, this has touched your lips;
Your iniquity is taken away,
And your sin [b]purged.”

8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying:

“Whom shall I send,
And who will go for Us?”

Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.”

9 And He said, “Go, and tell this people:

Same text as when JESUS ANSWERS THE
DISCIPLES’ QUESTION REGARDING WHY HE
USES PARABLES.

IN THEM IS FULFILLED THE PROPHECY OF
ISAIAH. (MT 13:13-15) RE-READ

Appears again in the NT - in the book of Acts 28

Paul Imprisoned - Felix, Festus, Agrippa, Ceasar

The Apostle Paul (under house arrest in Rome):

And so we came to Rome. 15 The brothers and sisters there had heard that we were coming, and they traveled as far as the Forum of Appius and the Three Taverns to meet us. At the sight of these people Paul thanked God and was encouraged. 16 When we got to Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself, with a soldier to guard him. 17 Three days later he called together the local Jewish leaders.

When they had assembled, Paul said to them: “My brothers, although I have done nothing against our people or against the customs of our ancestors, I was arrested in Jerusalem and handed over to the Romans. 18 They examined me and wanted to release me, because I was not guilty of any crime deserving death. 19 The Jews objected, so I was compelled to make an appeal to Caesar. I certainly did not intend to bring any charge against my own people. 20 For this reason I have asked to see you and talk with you. It is because of the hope of Israel that I am bound with this chain.”

21 They replied, “We have not received any letters from Judea concerning you, and none of our people who have come from there has reported or said anything bad about you.

22 But we want to hear what your views are, for we know that people everywhere are talking against this sect.”

23 They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day, and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying. He witnessed to them from morning till evening, explaining about the kingdom of God, and from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets he tried to persuade them about Jesus. 24 Some were convinced by what he said, but others would not believe.

25 They disagreed among themselves and began to leave after Paul had made this final statement: “The Holy Spirit spoke the truth to your ancestors when he said through Isaiah the prophet:

26 “Go to this people and say,
“You will be ever hearing but never
understanding;
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.”

27 For this people’s heart has become
calloused;
they hardly hear with their ears,
and they have closed their eyes.
Otherwise they might see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their hearts
and turn, and I would heal them.’[a]

28 “Therefore I want you to know that God’s
salvation has been sent to the Gentiles, and
they will listen!” [29] [b]

30 For two whole years Paul stayed there in his
own rented house and welcomed all who came
to see him. 31 He proclaimed the kingdom of
God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—
with all boldness and without hindrance!

3 C's: Isaiah to Jesus to Paul (THERMOMETER) -

Clogged Ears, Closed Eyes, Calloused Hearts

Challenge to evaluate our spiritual condition:

Parable of the Sower - 4 Soils:

Hard Path, Rocky Ground,

Thorny Ground, Good Soil

Matthew 13:16-17

Jesus to His disciples . . .

16 But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. **17** For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

Clogged Ears, Closed Eyes, Calloused Hearts

Today is a good day for a check up!