Go...realizing that some people will reject the message immediately; some will seem to accept it but will soon fall away; some will seem to accept while holding on to the old life, but will eventually disappear, choked out by things of the world; and some will truly believe and in humility will confess and repent of their sins.

## **GREEK WORDS**

Parabolê—a placing beside, a comparison

**Mystērion** (moos-tay'ree-on)—a derivative of muo (to shut the mouth) a secret (through the idea of silence imposed by initiation into religious rites)

## **SONG TITLES**

"My Hallelujah" words and music by Ben Smith, Brenton Brown, Chris Tomlin, Daniel Bashta, Jason Ingram, and Pat Barrett

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## THE PARABLES—Section 2, Part 1

Matthew 13:1-23 Mark Kring, Senior Pastor January 19, 2020



- 1. As a nation, Israel rejected Jesus. As a result, at that point in time Jesus did not establish (postponed) His physical, earthly kingdom. Instead, He pronounced judgment on the nation because of their unbelief and in turn extended that invitation to any who would believe in Him. This era is called the "church age."
- 2. 13:3 At this point in His ministry, Jesus only spoke to the crowds in parables and intentionally left them hanging (Matthew 13:34-35).
- 3. 13:9 The ability to understand these teachings depends largely on the condition of one's heart.
- 4. 13:9 An unexplained parable is nothing more than an impossible riddle; we can only guess at its meaning.
- 5. 13:11 Jesus gave two reasons for speaking only in parables:
  - to reveal hidden meaning to those who receive Him
  - to conceal meaning from those who do not
- 6. 13:11 In the Bible, a "mystery" refers to the revelation of something previously hidden. New Testament mysteries are revelations not revealed to saints in the Old Testament era.
- 7. 13:11 This Kingdom exists spiritually in the hearts of His people while the King is physically absent from the earth.
- 8. 13:11 The kingdom of heaven has two distinct aspects:
  - Universal kingdom—has no conditions; includes every created thing
  - Mediatorial kingdom—has conditions; requires intentional identity with Him
- 9. 13:12-13 The person who belongs to Jesus will receive even greater light as they grow in the Lord; the opposite is true for the unbeliever.
- 10. 13:12 Everyone on earth is either progressing or regressing in their relationship to God...none are static.
- **11.** 13:14-15 Those not accepting His clear, simple teachings would not be able to understand the deeper teachings.

- 12. 13:14-15 Those not accepting His clear, simple teachings would not be able to understand the deeper teachings.
- 13. 13:17 Not even the most faithful Old Testament saints had the insights every believer in Jesus has been given (1 Peter 1:10-12).
- 14. 13:16 Illumination belongs to every Christian who searches and relies on the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:9–16; 1 John 2:20, 27).
- **15**. 13:18-23 Broadly speaking, anyone who shares the gospel is a sower. The seed is the Word of God, the good news of entrance into His Kingdom.
- 16. 13:18 The work of the sower is not to modify the seed (manufacture a different message) but to sow it exactly as He has given it.
- 17. 13:18-23 The parable of the sower revolves around proclaiming the Word, but the main aspect is the heart soil on which the truth of that Word falls.
- 18. 13:18-23 The soils are basically the same and, given the right conditions, can support growth. Although every human heart is naturally sinful (Romans 8:7; Ephesians 2:15-16), every human heart is capable of being redeemed (2 Peter 3:9; John 6:37).
- 19. 13:18-23 Four kinds of hearts found during the Church Age:
  - Unresponsive (13:19)—Those who consistently resist things of spirituality; the soil of the heart becomes packed down hard until it is impervious, leaving this person exposed to Satan's attack.
  - Superficial/Shallow (13:20)—Those who make a quick, emotional response to the gospel without really coming to grips with the cost of following Christ. All the change is surface change, rather than in deep places where God's Word takes root. As quickly as it was received, it is just as quickly abandoned.
  - Worldly (13:22)—Those who make a profession of faith, but their first love is for the things of this world. These rarely notice their spiritual life is totally unfruitful because there is no real interest.
  - Receptive (13:23)—This one is not necessarily any less sinful or more perceptive than the others but is prepared by the Spirit of God
  - (John 16:8). The only barrier to salvation is unbelief; anyone willing to accept Jesus on His terms is good soil.
- 20. 13:23 The ultimate mark of the good soil (genuine believer) is that it is fruit-bearing (Galatians 5:22-23; Philippians 1:11; Ephesians 2:10).



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