An Introduction to the Parables December 14, 2025

Matthew 13:1-3, "That day Jesus went out of the house and was sitting by the sea. ² And large crowds gathered to Him, so He got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd was standing on the beach. ³ And He spoke many things to them in parables."

Parable: an illustration, a comparison, a teaching aid that is cast alongside the truth being taught in a story

Isaiah 58:13

Matthew 12:1, "Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath, and His disciples became hungry and began to pick the heads of grain and eat."

Matthew 12:2, "When the Pharisees saw this, they said to Jesus, "Look, Your disciples do what is not lawful on a Sabbath."

Matthew 12:8, "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

Matthew 12:14, "The Pharisees went out and conspired against Jesus, as to how they might destroy Him."

Matthew 12:22-24, "Then a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute was brought to Jesus, and He healed him, so that the mute man spoke and saw. ²³ All the crowds were amazed, and were saying, "This man cannot be the Son of David, can he?" ²⁴ But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons."

Matthew 12:31, "Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven."

Matthew 12:37, "By your words, you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

Mark 4:33-34, "With many such parables, He was speaking the Word to them, so far as they were able to hear it; and He did not speak to them without a parable; but He was explaining everything privately to His own disciples."

Matthew 13:10-11, "The disciples came and said to Him, 'Why do you speak to them in parables?'" Jesus answered them, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted."

Matthew 13:12-13, "For whoever has, to him more shall be given and he will have an abundance. But whoever doesn't have, even what he has shall be taken away from him. Therefore, I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, while hearing, they do not hear, nor do they understand."

Matthew 13:18, "Hear then the parable of the sower."

Matthew 13:19-23, "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road. ²⁰ The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away. ²² And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. ²³ And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty."

Matthew 13:34-35, "All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables, and He didn't speak to them without a parable. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet, 'I will open up my mouth in parables. I will utter things hidden since the foundation of the world.'"

1 Corinthians 2:7, "We speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory, the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood. If they understood it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."

1 Corinthians 2:9, "Just as it is written, 'Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him."

Luke 10:23, "Turning to His disciples, Jesus said privately, 'Blessed are the eyes which see the things that you see.'"

Luke 10:24, "I say to you, that many prophets and kings wished to see the things which you see, and did not see them, and to hear the things which you hear, and didn't hear them."