

Study Questions
Matthew 13 Parables – Part Seven
Without a Parable
Sunday January 24th 2010

1). Mt 13:34 *All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them, 35 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world."*

a). Where within the parables do we find this commentary on the Lord's use of parables?

b). What do we find is stated about His use of parables in this commentary?

c). What do these stated things reveal to us about the parables?

2). The second half of v35 is drawing from Psalm 78 –

Ps 78:1 ¶ <<A Contemplation of Asaph.>> *Give ear, O my people, to my law;*

Incline your ears to the words of my mouth. 2 I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old, 3 Which we have heard and known, And our fathers have told us.

a). What are the people admonished to do in v1?

b). What according to v2 will He speak in a parable?

c). What does v3 tell us about these dark sayings of old?

d). What does this confirm for us that we have already seen in Matthew 13:35?

e). What would this mean for Israel as the recipients of the scriptures?

f). What does it say to us concerning the truth of scripture?

g). Again, what is the admonishment in Psalm 78:1?

3). Mt 13:13 *"Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. 14 "And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; 15 For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.'*

a). This is the Lord's stated purpose for speaking to Israel in parables – What does v14 tell us? And what does this make clear for us?

b). In v15 what are the reasons for Israel's inability to hear?

c). Who is responsible for this?

d). How did this situation come about?

e). So what then would be the difference between the Disciples and the multitude?

4). Joh 6:66 *From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. 67 Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" 68 But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 "Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

- a). According to v66 who went back and walked with Him no more?
- b). Are these people in v66 the same ones described elsewhere as the multitude?
- c). What is it that marks the difference between the 12 and the many?
- d). What is significant about v69?
- e). What is the spiritual truth behind the obvious?

5). Mt 16:15 *He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."*

- a). What is the rock on which He will build His church?
- b). What do you think might be significant about using the word ‘build’?
- c). What is the promise for those built on this rock?

6). 2Co 3:14 *But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ. 15 But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. 16 Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.*

a). How does this scripture help explain the difference between the Disciples and the many and the multitude?

b). 2Co 4:3 *But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,⁴ whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.*

c). What does this scripture tell us about the ‘church’ in general?

d). What is the direct parallel with what we have seen with the nation of Israel?

7). Mt 13:11 *He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.*

12 "For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.

Lu 11:9 "So I say to you, ask,[and continue asking] and it will be given to you; seek,[and continue seeking] and you will find; knock,[and continue knocking] and it will be opened to you. 10 "For everyone who asks[and continues asking] receives, and he who seeks[and continues seeking] finds, and to him who knocks[and continues knocking] it will be opened.13.....how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

a). How are our 2 scriptures here connected?

b). What is the application here for ourselves?

8). Heb 5:9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, 10 ¶ called by God as High Priest "according to the order of Melchizedek," 11 of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

a). What has happened to these Christians in Hebrews?

b). What are the possible causes of being dull of hearing?

c). What might those in Hebrews not be doing that we are admonished to do in Luke 9?

d). What can cause us to become complacent and lethargic?

e). What is the antidote to the word of the Kingdom becoming commonplace?

f). What can we do to prevent the enormity of what God has done for us and the enormity of those exceedingly great and precious promises becoming overshadowed by our circumstances?