

The Parables of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew

Only with Two of His Parables did Jesus fully explain them to Disciples

1) Parable of the Wheat and Weeds (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43)

Matt 13:24-30 “He proposed another parable to them. “The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everyone was asleep his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat, and then went off. When the crop grew and bore fruit, the weeds appeared as well. The slaves of the householder came to him and said, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where have the weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ His slaves said to him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’ He replied, ‘No, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters, “First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn.””

36-43 “Then, dismissing the crowds, he went into the house. His disciples approached him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.” He said in reply, “He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age and the harvesters are angels. Just as weeds are collected and burned [up] with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all who cause others to sin and all evildoers. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears ought to hear.

2) The Parable of the Sower and Seed (Matt 13:1-9 ^{parable} & 18-23 ^{its explanation})

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (parallel Mark 4:1-9, 13-20) “And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep, and when the sun rose it was scorched, and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold. Whoever has ears ought to hear.”

19-23 “The seed sown on the path is the one who hears the word of the kingdom without understanding it, and the evil one comes and steals away what was sown in his heart. The seed sown on rocky ground is the one who hears the word and receives it at once with joy. But he has no root and lasts only for a time. When some tribulation or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away. The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word, but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit. But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold.”

Why parables? Good Question & in Good Company!

Teacher, why do you always answer us with questions? She said, “What is wrong with questions?”

Matthew 13:10 “The disciples approached him and said, “Why do you speak to them in parables?”

Excellent Teaching Device for memory recall and practical demonstration of lesson/application

Matt 13:3 “And he spoke to them at length...”

Mark 6:35-36 "**he began to teach them many things.** By now it was already late and his disciples approached him and said, "This is a deserted place and it is already very late. Dismiss them so that they may go eat...."

Luke 4:15 "He taught *in* their synagogues and was praised by all.

Luke 21: 37-38 "During the day, Jesus was teaching *in* the temple area, but at night he would leave and stay at the place called the Mount of Olives. And all the people would get up early each morning to listen to him in the temple area.

Mark 4:1 "began to teach by the sea. A very large crowd gathered around him so that he got into a boat on the sea and sat down...."

Where do we find the texts or transcriptions of His actual teachings?

1) Sermon on the Mount –Matthew chapter 5-7 & Luke chapter 6

2) Last Supper Discourses –John 14-16, after teaching, closing prayer is whole Chapter 17 "Ask and it will be given to you; **seek & you will find**; knock and the door will be opened to you" Matt 7:7
Matt 13:13 "This is why I speak to them in parables, because 'they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand.'"

Matt 13:16-17 "But blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear. Amen, I say to 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."

"Whoever has ears ought to hear" Matthew 13:9

Matthew 11:15, 13:9, 13:43 & in Mark 4:9, 4:23 & in Luke 8:8, 14:35

Also, in Revelation 2:7, 2:11, 2:17, 2:29, 3:6, 3:13, 3:22,13:9 "Whoever has ears, let them hear."
John 10:27 "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me."

Old Commercial: "Can you hear me, now?"

Jesus says, "Listen up", or 'Hear Ye, Hear Ye!'

Maybe similar to Jesus' dramatic and frequent use of 'Amen, Amen' in John's gospel Twenty-five (!) times he says, "Amen, Amen" before some of his most declarative statements. See John 1:51; 3:3, 5, 11; 5:19, 24, 25; 6:26, 32, 47, 53; 8:34, 51, 58; 10:1, 7; 12:24; 13:16, 20, 21, 38; 14:12; 16:20, 23; and 21:18.

Example John 3:3 "Amen, Amen, I say to you, unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Sometimes translated 'Verily, verily' or 'Truly, truly'.

Synoptics have similar Amen proclamation, but only one Amen! ("Amen, I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation" Mark 8:12)

Parables found only in Matthew among the Synoptic Gospels

1. The Wheat and the Weeds (Matt. 13:24–30; cf. Gos.Thom. 57)
2. The Hidden Treasure (Matt. 13:44; cf. Gos. Thom. 109)
3. The Pearl (Matt. 13:45–46; cf. Gos. Thom. 76)
4. The Net (Matt. 13:47–50; cf. Gos. Thom. 8)
5. The Unmerciful Servant (Matt. 18:23–35)
6. The Laborers in the Vineyard (Matt. 20:1–16)
7. The Two Sons (Matt. 21:28–31)
8. The Ten Virgins (Matt. 25:1–12)
9. The Talents (Matt. 25:14–30)