

Mark 4: 10-13, 33-34

10 When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables. ¹¹And he said to them, 'To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables; ¹²in order that: "they may indeed look, but not perceive, and may indeed listen, but not understand; so that they may not turn again and be forgiven." '

13 And he said to them, 'Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand all the parables?

33 With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Commentary: In these verses Jesus offers an explanation as to why he speaks in parables. Parabolic speech may be heard by many people, but only those who really seek to understand in a sincere and heart-felt way will discover the truth they reveal. For the rest, parables are just riddles of passing significance. Those who really follow Jesus and persevere in their openness and desire to understand will be given what they desire: the life-giving word that Jesus came to bring.

What if we considered this season of Covid-19 in a parabolic way? Are we truly open and ready to receive the message? Are we hearing but not understanding? What are the truths we are being communicated? What is God seeking to reveal to us, each and every one of us in and through this time of testing in the wilderness?

Prayer: Lord God, give me greater sincerity of heart and greater courage to be open to your word to me, your will for me. Sometimes I hear what you are telling me but I don't really want to hear it and so I pretend not to hear it. But I am deceiving myself and only prolonging what I know I must hear, receive, and where necessary, follow through in action. Help me and strengthen me, especially in this season when I need to be grounded more than ever... Amen.