

Divin' In – Wednesday Night Bible Study

THE CHURCH OF THE SPRINGS – 12/20/23



“Jesus’ parables were given for the instruction of His disciples, NOT to convert unbelievers. In fact, these parabolic teachings were SYMBOLIC so that unbelievers would NOT understand them!”

– from Days of Praise from ICR.org

Using stories and parables



FROM MATTHEW 13:52-53 [near the end of chapter 13] VOICE

“Every scribe and teacher of the law who has become a student of the ways of the **Kingdom** is like the head of the household who brings some new things and some old things, both out of the storeroom. With that Jesus finished teaching His parables, and He moved on.”

MATTHEW 13:3-4,9 VOICE

“And so Jesus began to teach. On this day, He spoke in **parables**. Here is His first parable: “Once there was a sower who scattered seeds. One day he walked in a **field** scattering seeds as he went.....He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

MATTHEW 13:10-11 VOICE / ESV / TLB

“‘Why do You speak to the people in parables?’ Jesus: ‘The knowledge of the **secrets** of heaven has been given to you, but it has not been given to them.’”

“Then the disciples came and said to Him, ‘Why do you speak to them in parables?’ And He answered them, ‘To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of **heaven**, but to them it has not been given.’”

“His disciples came and asked Him, ‘Why do you always use these hard-to-understand **illustrations**?’ Then He explained to them that only they were **permitted** to understand about the Kingdom of Heaven, and others were not.’”

MATTHEW 13:12-13 NIV

“Whoever **has** will be given **more**, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. This is why I speak to them in parables: [quoting Psalm 78:2] ‘Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand.’”

MATTHEW 13:14-15 [quoting Isaiah 6:9-10] VOICE

“They are fulfilling Isaiah’s **prophecy**: ‘You will listen, but you will not understand; you will look, but you will not see. The people’s **hearts** have turned to **flab**; their ears are clogged; their eyes are shut. They will try to see, but they will not see; they will try to hear, but they will not hear; they will try to understand, but they will not **comprehend**. If they, with their blindness and deafness, so choose, then I will heal them.’”

MATTHEW 13:15 CEV

“All of them have **stubborn** minds! They refuse to listen; they cover their eyes. They cannot see or hear or understand. If they could, they would turn to me, and I would heal them.”

MATTHEW 13:16-17 AMP

“But blessed [spiritually aware, and **avored** by God] are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. I assure you and most solemnly say to you, many prophets and righteous men [who were honorable and in right standing with God] **longed** to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.”