

MATTHEW 13, PART 3

I) Review of Matthew

- Matthew shows that Jesus is _____ who has come to _____ by _____.
- Jesus is _____ as He is _____.
- The Sermon on the Mount tells of the King _____ the Torah through _____ in words of _____. This is _____.
- Echoing the _____ and fulfilling _____, Jesus proceeded to _____.
- “When Jesus had finished these words” (7:28; 11:1; 13:53; 19:1; & 26:1).

II) Why did Jesus speak in parables?

Matthew provides various reasons:

- Like Solomon, Jesus taught in parables (Mt. 12:42).
- Parables demanded the audience to listen and meditate to gain the meaning (Mt. 13:11-12; cf. Prov. 1:1-7).
- The closed-hearted refused to listen, only becoming more hardened (Mt. 13:13) while the open-hearted were transformed (Mt. 13:16-17).
- Parables broke idols (Mt. 13:14-15).

How does this explanation differ from the common understanding that “Jesus taught in parables to relate His truth to their everyday experiences”?

III) How do parables break the idol of desiring everything as black/white?

When we seek to make everything black and white, we believe that we have total control and nothing more to learn. The parables hold us under their judgment and instruction, giving us wisdom as we increase in understanding. Indeed, we come to know, and the parables help us to know more fully. I am never the judge, nor do the parables lose their instructive purpose. God is always the judge and teacher; I am the disciple.

IV) Matthew 13:1-9 & 18-23 (We'll finally discuss this!).

1. How does this parable extend Isaiah's parables in Isaiah 5 & 27?

2. What does this parable teach us about the kingdom of heaven (& THE KING!)?

3. Compare the four soils:
 - a. The path:

 - b. Rocky ground:

 - c. Thorns:

 - d. Good soil:

V) Matthew 13:24-43

4. What prophecy did Jesus fulfill (13:35)?

5. What does the parable of the weeds teach us?

6. What does the parable of the mustard seed teach us?

7. What does the parable of the leaven teach us?