**Why Parables?**

# Introduction

Why did Jesus speak in parables (Matt. 13:10)? Don’t teachers always want to be *understood* by their listeners (I do!)? When Jesus used parables, many people *couldn’t* understand, but the following benefits came about…

# The Godly: Parables *cause real believers to seek* their sense (Matt. 13:11-12a).

## Jesus said, “The secrets of the kingdom of heaven are given to you.”

## By not teaching directly, Christ encourages those who really want to know his truth to ponder what he means.

# The Rebellious: Parables *hide truth* from resistant unbelievers (Matt. 13:12b-15).

## Christ’s highest teaching priority was *not* to be understood. It was to be believed!

## Speaking plainly could have led to opposition from his enemies to the extent that they killed him prematurely.

## Parables also hid truth from listeners who had already decided to reject him. As such, they received less spiritual light and therefore less judgment for their rejection (Matt. 11:20-24).

# The Seekers: Parables *catch the attention* of the apathetic to give them truth.

## Everyone loves a story. How much more so this is true of those with little education, which describes the majority of those listening to Jesus.

## Jesus was a master teacher. He angered many with his words, but he never bored them!

# Conclusion

We should follow Jesus' example and be more concerned about listeners' responses to the message than we are about our need to be understood.