

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...

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

 - A. Jesus said, "The secrets of the kingdom of heaven are given to you."
 - B. By not teaching directly, Christ encourages those who really want to know his truth to ponder what he means.

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

 - A. Christ's highest teaching priority was *not* to be understood. It was to be believed!
 - B. Speaking plainly could have led to opposition from his enemies to the extent that they killed him prematurely.
 - C. 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).

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

 - A. 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.
 - B. 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.