

The Mercy of Parables

To you it has been given to know the secrets of the Kingdom.

MT 13:11

Written by Bill Perkins

"I will open my mouth in parables;
I will utter things hidden
since the foundation of the world."
- Mt 13:35

Matthew 13 is the moment Jesus opens eight parables
to reveal four truths about the Kingdom of God.
But none of it will matter
if you don't understand
why He chose to speak this way.
Because if you miss that,
you'll miss why you don't always hear Him
when He speaks to you.

His words do not land the same
on every heart.
The same voice
can reveal or hide truth,
and what it does in you
depends on the condition
of your heart.

The word "parable" comes from the Greek parabole -
para, "beside," and ballo, "to throw."
A parable is truth thrown beside truth:
a familiar picture
set next to an unseen reality,
so the visible world
reveals the invisible Kingdom.

But something deeper
was happening.
Israel's leaders rejected the King.

(Mt 12:24)

The crowds misunderstood His mission.
The Kingdom they expected
was not the Kingdom He brought.

So Jesus shifted His method -
from open proclamation
to parables. (Mt 13:10)

The disciples were confused.
Why wrap truth in story
when He could speak plainly?

Jesus answered:

"To you it has been given
to know the secrets
of the Kingdom."

(Mt 13:11)

Understanding is not earned.
It is given -
to those who listen with intention,
who search,
who obey. (Mk 4:24)

These "secrets" are the mysteries -
truths hidden in the prophets:
how the Kingdom grows
while the King is absent,
how it advances quietly
between His first coming
and His return.

Parables reveal,
and parables conceal.
Mercy does both.

For the responsive,
they open what was closed.
For the resistant,
they veil what would only
increase judgment.

(Mt 13:13-15)

You may not know this about Jesus:
even His veils were mercy.

Two mercies:

understanding for the willing,
lighter judgment for the hardened.

Truth opens to the willing.

Truth hides from the resistant.

And the mercy of understanding
remains a gift
for those who seek
until light breaks through.