Parabolē

Study & Discussion Questions

01

Passage · Matthew 13:10–13

The One · With publisher's permission

> *The disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"*
>
> *He answered, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the Kingdom of heaven…*
>
> *This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear…"*

02

Commentary

Bill Perkins

Matthew 13 is the moment
Jesus opens eight parables
to reveal four truths
about the Kingdom.

But none of it matters
unless you understand
why He chose
to speak this way.

His words do not land the same
on every heart.
The same voice
can reveal
or hide
truth,
depending on the condition
of the listener.

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

The disciples asked why.
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).

Parables reveal,
and parables conceal.
Mercy does both.

For the willing,
they open what was closed.
For the resistant,
they veil what would only
increase judgment
(Mt 13:13–15).

Two mercies:
understanding
for the responsive,
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.

03

Reflection Question

Where is Jesus inviting me to listen with intention so truth can open instead of hide?

04

What This Means to Me

Jesus does not hide truth
from those who seek Him.
He gives understanding
as a gift—
not to the clever,
but to the willing.

His parables remind me
that revelation is relational.
Light comes
as I listen,
as I obey,
as I keep returning
to His voice.

The mercy of understanding
is found in Him.

05

Discussion Questions

1 What does Jesus' answer in Matthew 13:11 show about who receives the secrets of the Kingdom?

2 How do parables both reveal and conceal truth — and how is each an act of mercy?

3 Where do I notice resistance in my own heart when Jesus speaks?

4 What does it look like to “listen with intention” (Mk 4:24) this week?

5 How has understanding come to you as a gift rather than something earned?

6 This week, where is Jesus inviting you to seek until light breaks through — and how can our group pray for you about this?

06

Prayer

Father,
give me a willing heart.
Open what I cannot open.
Reveal what I cannot see.
Let Your truth land deeply
and bear fruit in me.

Guard me from resistance.
Grow in me responsiveness.
Let the mercy of understanding
shape my life
in the light of Your Son.

I ask in Jesus’ name.
Amen.