



THE PARABLES

A 12-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

Week 1 – Introduction to The Parables (Sunday, May 10, 2026) Why Jesus Taught in Parables

Introductory Remarks

Jesus often taught using stories. Stories that were simple on the surface, yet profound in meaning. These parables were not just illustrations; they were designed to reveal truth to those who were willing to listen and conceal it from those who were not. As we begin this study, we will explore why Jesus chose this method of teaching and what it reveals about the condition of our hearts. Understanding parables is not just an intellectual exercise as it is a spiritual one. Our ability to grasp their meaning is directly tied to our willingness to seek God and respond to His truth.

Lesson Outline

- Purpose of parables (Matthew 13:10–17)
- Parable of the Lamp under a Bowl (Mark 4:21–25)

Key idea: Parables reveal truth to those who seek and conceal it from those who don't

1. What is your favorite parable and why?
2. According to Jesus' words recorded in Matthew 13:10–17, what were the reasons He used parables in communicating with His disciples?
3. In addition to the above list, are there other reasons you believe why Jesus would have used parables?
4. Read Mark 4:21-14 and answer the following questions.
 - a. Of what is Jesus referencing in the lamp parable?
 - b. In verses 24-25 what is Jesus referencing in terms of the "measure?" Also, of what parable are you reminded of in reading verse 25?





Matthew 13:10-17 (NIV)

¹⁰The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?”

¹¹He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. ¹²Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ¹³This is why I speak to them in parables:

“Though seeing, they do not see;
though hearing, they do not hear or understand.

¹⁴In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:
“You will be ever hearing but never understanding;
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.

¹⁵For this people’s heart has become calloused;
they hardly hear with their ears,
and they have closed their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their hearts
and turn, and I would heal them.’

¹⁶But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. ¹⁷For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

Mark 4:21-25 (NIV)

²¹He said to them, “Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don’t you put it on its stand? ²²For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open. ²³If anyone has ears to hear, let them hear.”

²⁴“Consider carefully what you hear,” he continued. “With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more. ²⁵Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.”





Schedule for the 12-week Parables of Jesus Series

Understanding (Weeks 1-3)	Value & Reality (Weeks 4-5)	God's Heart (Weeks 6-7)	Our Response (Weeks 8-12)
Week 1 – Introduction to Parables Theme: Why Jesus Taught in Parables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose of parables (Matthew 13:10–17) • Parable of the Lamp under a Bowl (Mark 4:21–25) • Key idea: <i>Parables reveal truth to those who seek and conceal it from those who don't</i> 	Week 4 – The Value of the Kingdom Theme: What Is the Kingdom Worth to You? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hidden Treasure (Matthew 13:44) • Pearl of Great Price (Matthew 13:45–46) • Key idea: <i>The Kingdom is worth everything</i> 	Week 6 – God's Heart for the Lost Theme: Pursuing the One Lost <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lost Sheep (Luke 15:1–7) • Lost Coin (Luke 15:8–10) • Key idea: <i>God actively seeks the lost with joy</i> 	Week 8 – Loving Others Theme: True Neighbor Love <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37) • Key idea: <i>Love crosses boundaries and costs something</i>
Week 2 – Hearing and Responding to God's Word Theme: The Condition of the Heart <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1–23) • Parable of the Growing Seed (Mark 4:26–29) • Key idea: <i>Spiritual growth depends on the condition of the heart</i> 	Week 5 – Judgment and Separation Theme: God Will Separate True and False <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weeds (Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43) • Net (Matthew 13:47–50) • Key idea: <i>Final judgment is real and unavoidable</i> 	Week 7 – Grace, Forgiveness, and Restoration Theme: The Heart of the Father <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11–32) • Unforgiving Servant (Matthew 18:21–35) • Key idea: <i>We receive grace and are expected to extend it</i> 	Week 9 – Prayer and Dependence on God Theme: Persistent and Humble Prayer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persistent Widow (Luke 18:1–8) • Pharisee and Tax Collector (Luke 18:9–14) • Friend at Midnight (Luke 11:5–13) • Key idea: <i>God honors persistence and humility</i>
Week 3 – The Growth of the Kingdom Theme: Small Beginnings, Big Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31–32) • Yeast (Matthew 13:33) • Key idea: <i>God's Kingdom often starts small but grows powerfully</i> 			Week 10 – Wealth and Stewardship Theme: Managing What God Has Given <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rich Fool (Luke 12:13–21) • Shrewd Manager (Luke 16:1–13) • Talents (Matthew 25:14–30) • Key idea: <i>We are stewards, not owners</i>
			Week 11 – Readiness and Faithfulness Theme: Be Ready for the King <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ten Virgins (Matthew 25:1–13) • Faithful Servant (Luke 12:35–48) • Key idea: <i>Live prepared and faithful</i>
			Week 12 – The Cost of Following Jesus Theme: True Discipleship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tower Builder & King Going to War (Luke 14:25–33) • Key idea: <i>Following Jesus requires full commitment</i>

