

THE KINGDOM DESCRIBED IN PARABLES  
(Matthew 13:1-3a, 10-17)

- I. The SHIFT in Teaching METHOD (Matt. 13:1-3a)
  - A. The OCCASION: “THAT day”
    - 1. Started with CONTROVERSY over the SABBATH (12:1-14)
    - 2. Continued with MANY HEALINGS (12:15-21)
    - 3. Prompted the CROWDS to WONDER if He might be “the Son of David” (12:22-23)
    - 4. Provoked His CRITICS to accuse Him of SATANIC power (12:24)
    - 5. Accused His critics of FOLLY and SATANIC EVIL (12:25-37)
    - 6. Condemned His critics for their UNBELIEF (12:38-45)
    - 7. Used His FAMILY to illustrate the necessity of FAITH in HIM (12:46-50)
  - B. The SETTING: “Sitting by the SEA”
    - 1. Accompanied by “large CROWDS”
    - 2. Boarded a BOAT to teach those on SHORE
    - 3. Taught MANY THINGS in PARABLES
- II. The REASON for the CHANGE (Matt. 13:10-17)
  - A. Used parables to REVEAL truth to SOME (13:11a)

1. This truth is revealed to YOU
2. The truth is a MYSTERY
3. The truth concerns the “KINGDOM of HEAVEN”
4. The privilege of COMPREHENSION has been GRANTED to them

B. Used parables to CONCEAL truth from OTHERS (13:11b-15)

1. UNBELIEVERS would perceive His teaching as RIDDLES
2. OBSCURING the truth was God’s JUDGMENT for their unbelief (cf. Isaiah 6:9-10)

C. Pronounced BLESSING upon those to whom truth was REVEALED (13:16-17)

1. These things were never revealed to OT PROPHETS and SAINTS
2. Jesus claimed FAR MORE than could any mere PROPHET

III. Striking a BALANCE

A. God’s LOVE is shown to ALL

1. He gives some exactly what they WANT: a HARD heart that REJECTS the truth
2. He gives others exactly what they NEED: a FAITHFUL heart that ACCEPTS the truth

B. The GOSPEL is presented to ALL

1. Some will not SEE the truth and will REJECT the Savior
2. Others will BELIEVE and be SAVED