

# He Spoke to the People in Parables

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"Another parable He (Jesus) put forth unto them, saying, 'The Kingdom of Heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field; which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches of it.' And another parable He spoke unto them; 'The Kingdom of Heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.' **All these things Jesus spoke unto the multitudes in parables;** and without a parable He did not speak unto them; so that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, '*I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.*' ' ' "  
([Matthew 13:31-34-35](#)) (quote is from [Psalm 78:2](#))

**Spoke:** from the Greek word *elalesen* which means: to speak; to emit a voice to make oneself heard; hence to utter or form words with the mouth. In Context: much of the ministry of Jesus was teaching the people moral standards of life, and concerning the present coming of the Kingdom of God. The sharing of illustrative parables with the people was always a part of His messages from the Father.

**Multitude:** from the Greek word *ochlois* which means: multitudes, crowds. In Context: speaking of the common people, especially concerning the multitudes of people who were like lost sheep without nurturing shepherds.

**Parables:** from the Greek word *parabolais* which means: a parable, comparison; an illustration; a similitude; (from *para*: 'close beside' and *ballo*, 'to cast'); a thought provoking teaching aid cast alongside the truth being taught, which casts additional insight by using a familiar analogy. In context: a common teaching aid used by Jesus to help the people to understand better His main teachings; but also a method used to hide truth from skeptics and adversaries.

The intent and purpose of the parables of Christ Jesus varied. Some parables were meant to be judgmental against adversaries; others were illustrative of the Kingdom of God; others spoke of end-times events; while others covered issues dealing with life and moral living issues. The parables of Jesus were sometimes simple to understand; and others were intentionally obscure, cryptic, and more difficult to understand. They were occasionally targeted towards a specific group of people, or used to address an issue which confronted Jesus, such as a question posed to Him. When Jesus was asked by His close disciples to explain a hard to understand parable He would interpret the parable in clear terms. What follows in this devotional study are just a few of the parables of Jesus.

Parable of the Mustard Seed was one of many such parables that Jesus spoke the word to the multitudes of people, many of which were difficult for the people to understand, even for His close disciples to whom He would more clearly explain later in private:

"And He said, to what shall we liken the Kingdom of God? Or with what comparison shall we compare it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth; but when it is sown, it grows up, and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out great branches; so that the birds of the air may lodge under the shadow of it." **And with many such parables** He spoke the word unto them, as they were able to hear it. **But without a parable He did not speak unto them;** and when they were alone, He expounded (explained) all things (all His parables) to His disciples."  
([Mark 4:30-34](#))

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The close disciples of Jesus wondered why Jesus spoke in parables, and explained many of His parables only to them. Please consider the Following:

"And the disciples came, and said unto Him (to Jesus), '**Why do You speak unto them in parables?**' And He answered and said unto them, 'Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven, but to them it is not given. For whoever has, to him shall (more) be given, and he shall have more abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has, from him it shall be taken away. Therefore I speak to them in parables; because seeing they see not; and hearing they hear not, nor do they understand. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah, which says, '*By hearing you shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing you shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people's heart is waxed dull, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.*' (quote from [Isaiah 6:9-10](#)) But blessed are your eyes, for they see; and your ears, for they hear. ([Matthew 13:10-17](#))

Sometimes a Parable of Jesus concerned a truth directly related to the nature of Jesus Himself:

Jesus said. " 'Truly, truly, I say unto you, ... He who enters in through the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calls his own sheep by name, and leads them out. And when he puts forth his own sheep, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him; for they do not know the voice of strangers.' **This illustration (parable)** Jesus spoke unto them; but they did not understand the things which He spoke unto them. Then Jesus said unto them again, 'Truly, truly, I say unto you, **I am the Door of the Sheep.** All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers; but the sheep did not hear them. I am the Door; **through Me** if any man enters in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief does not come, except for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. ... **I am the Good Shepherd;** the Good Shepherd gives His life for the sheep.' " ([John 10:1-11](#))

Sometimes a Parable of Jesus was so told that a certain targeted group would clearly understand that they were the target of the parable:

"... 'But when the husbandmen saw him, they reasoned among themselves, saying, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, so that the inheritance may be ours. So they cast him out of the vineyard, and killed him. What therefore shall the lord of the vineyard do unto them? He shall come and destroy these husbandmen, and shall give the vineyard to others.' And when they (the people) heard it, they said, 'God forbid.' And He beheld them, and said, 'What is this then that is written, 'The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the **Head Cornerstone?**' (Psalm 118:22) Whoever shall fall upon that stone shall be broken; but on whomever it shall fall, it will grind him to dust.' And the chief priests and the scribes that same hour sought to lay hands on Him; but they feared the people; for they understood that He had spoken this parable against them.' " (see in context [Luke 20:-1-19](#))

Sometimes a Parable of Jesus concerned fruitless lives, and the hope of fruitfulness:

"He (Jesus) also spoke this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit upon it, and found none. Then said he unto the keeper of his vineyard, 'Behold, these three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why burden the ground with it?' And he, answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it; and if it bears fruit, well: and if not, then after that you shall have it cut down.' " ([Luke 13:6-9](#))

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Sometimes a Parable of Jesus illustrated a way of life that should be a part of peoples lives:

"And **He (Jesus) spoke a parable** unto them to this end: that **men ought always to pray**, and not to loose heart; saying, 'There was in a city a judge, who did not fear God, nor regard man. And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, 'Avenge me of my adversary.' And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow (constantly) troubles me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she wearies me.' And the Lord said, 'Listen to what the unjust judge said. And shall not God avenge his own elect, **who cry (pray) day and night unto him**, though He bear (delays) long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the **Son of Man** comes, shall He find faith (persistent faith) on the earth?' " ([Luke 18:1-8](#))

Sometimes a Parable of Jesus conveyed His concern and love for all people, including all sinners:

"Then drew near unto Him (unto Jesus) all the tax-collectors and sinners to listen to Him. And the Pharisees and Scribes mumbled, saying, 'This man receives sinners, and eats with them.' And He spoke **this parable** unto them, saying, 'What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that one which is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying unto them, 'Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.' Likewise, I say unto you, that there shall be joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, more than over ninety-nine just persons, who need no repentance.' " ([Luke 15:1-7](#))

Sometimes a Parable of Jesus addressed the issue of hypocrisy:

"And He (Jesus) spoke **this parable** unto certain-persons who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others, 'Two men went up into the Temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a tax-collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax-collector. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.' And the tax-collector, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, 'God be merciful to me a sinner.' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one who exalts himself shall be abased; and He that humbles himself shall be exalted.' " ([Luke 18:9-14](#))

## Jesus Spoke to the People through Many Parables

**All of which illustrate the wisdom and profound truths that Jesus taught !  
Including things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world !  
Some people hear, but do not understand them; and see but they cannot perceive !!**

**Lord Jesus, I thank you for Your many parables that are recorded in the Gospels.  
I Thank You for the lessons that I learn from them.  
Please help me to live and abide in the upright ways set forth in Your parables.**

**All Praise and Glory and Honor are Yours !**

**Always and Always !! ~ Amen and Amen !!**