

3ABN SABBATH SCHOOL PANEL
004 - TUESDAY – JULY 23, 2024

THE REASON FOR THE PARABLES

Mark 4:10–12 (NKJV) (10) But when He was alone, those around Him with the twelve asked Him about the parable. (11) And He said to them, “To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables, (12) so that “Seeing they may see and not perceive, And hearing they may hear and not understand; Lest they should turn, And their sins be forgiven them.’

Why did Jesus teach in parables?

1. **TO FULFILL PROPHECY:** Matthew 13:34–35 (NKJV) (34) All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them, (35) that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: “*I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world.*”
2. **TO REVEAL THE CONDITION OF THE LISTENERS:** Matthew 13:13–15 (NKJV) (13) Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. (14) And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: “*Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, and seeing you will see and not perceive;* (15) *For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.*”
3. **TO OPEN THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE APPLICABLE PARTIES:** Matthew 21:45 (NKJV) “Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, **they perceived that He was speaking of them.**”
4. **TO UNFOLD MESSAGES THAT HAVE BEEN HIDDEN:** Mark 4:11–13 (NKJV) (11) And He said to them, “To you it has been given **to know the mystery of the kingdom of God**; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables.”
5. **TO MAKE THE MESSAGE PALLITABLE:** Mark 4:33 (NKJV) “And with many such parables He spoke the word to them as they were able to hear *it.*”

John 16:12 (NKJV) “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now.”

6. **TO KEEP HIS ADVERSARIES IN THE DARK:** Mark 4:12–13 (NKJV) (12) so that Seeing they may see and not perceive, and hearing they may hear and not understand; Lest they should turn, and their sins be forgiven them. (13) And He said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?”

What happens to Isaiah here, and what is the message he is given to take to Israel?

In Isaiah 6 the message is meant to shock the people awake so they will turn from their evil ways.

Isaiah 6:9–10 (NKJV) (9) And He said, “Go, and tell this people:

- a. “ Keep on hearing, but do not understand;
- b. Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.’
- c. Make the heart of this people dull,
- d. And their ears heavy,
- e. And shut their eyes;
- f. Lest they see with their eyes,
- g. And hear with their ears,
- h. And understand with their heart,
- i. And return and be healed.””

There are times **the heart is so recalcitrant, so obstinate**, that it **resists the simple appeals of the Lord**. The Lord uses methods to get their attention.

INCREASE THEIR HARDSHIP: 1 Corinthians 5:5 (NKJV) “Deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.”

MAKE THEIR PURSUIT OF SIN FRUITLESS: Hosea 2:6–7 (NKJV) (6) ““Therefore, behold, I will hedge up your way with thorns, and wall her in, So that she cannot find her paths. (7) She will chase her lovers, But not overtake them; Yes, she will seek them, but not find *them*. Then she will say, “I will go and return to my first husband, For then *it was* better for me than now.””

SUBJECT THEM TO BONDAGE TO APPRECIATE FREEDOM:

Jeremiah 25:11 (NKJV) “And this whole land shall be a desolation *and* an astonishment, and **these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.**”

Jeremiah 29:10–13 (NKJV) “(10) For thus says the LORD: **After seventy years are completed at Babylon**, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place. (11) For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. (12) Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. (13) And you will seek Me and find *Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart.”