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Why Parables?

Matthew 13.10

Context of Matthew 13

- ❖ Jesus climbs aboard a boat to address a large crowd of people (1)
- ❖ He first addresses them with the parable of the sower (3)
 - ▶ Seven parables will follow in this chapter
 - ▶ Tares, Mustard Seed, Leaven, Treasure, Pearl, Net, Householder
- ❖ Jesus is questioned as to why He speaks to the crowd in parables (10)

“Our word ‘parable’ comes from the Greek words *para* meaning beside and *ballein* meaning to throw.

{The word means to ‘throw along beside of’ or ‘place along beside’...} Parables were used to illustrate and make clear the word of God to those who otherwise would not have understood...} A parable usually has one main point though other truths may be taught incidentally... Always ask {‘Why was the parable given?’”}

Why Parables Now?

- ❖ Jesus has been rather straight-forward in His teaching up to this point:
 - ▶ Sermon on the Mount — Matthew 5-7
 - ▶ Sabbath Discussion — Matthew 12.1-37
- ❖ Opposition to Jesus is beginning to build:
 - ▶ The Pharisees and scribes are seeking to discredit Jesus — Luke 6.7,11
 - ▶ They are no longer listening to Him.

Why Parables Now?

- ❖ Jesus provides His answer (Matthew 13.11ff):
 - ▶ Not everyone was listening to Jesus (11)
 - ▶ Many were seeing, but not seeing; hearing, but not hearing (13)
 - ➔ Pharisees & scribes seeking signs (12.38; 12.22ff)
 - ➔ Pharisees ignoring Christ (Mark 3.1-6)
 - ➔ Jewish elite hearing, not listening (Luke 6.7)
 - ▶ Jesus is not speaking in parables so that they won't believe; Jesus is speaking in parables so that they will receive the message He's sharing! (Matthew 13.13-15)

What's in it for Me?

- ❖ God's message is important enough to make great effort to share.
- ❖ There's nothing wrong with asking questions when we don't understand (13.10).
- ❖ We must be willing to reevaluate the form of our teaching.
- ❖ We sit at the pinnacle of history (13.17).
- ❖ The Gospel is for all!