THE HIDDEN PURPOSE OF THE PARABLES

--

Mark 4:1-10

*1 Again he began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land.*

*--*

*2 And he was teaching them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them:*

*--*

*3 "Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow.*

*--*

*4 And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it.*

*--*

*5 Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil.*

*--*

*6 And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away.*

*--*

*7 Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain.*

*--*

*8 And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold."*

*--*

*9 And he said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."*

*--*

*10 And when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables.*

*--*

Mark 4:11-12

*11 And he said to them, "To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables,*

*--*

*12 so that 'they may indeed see but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand, lest they should turn and be forgiven.'" (ESV)*

--

Mark 4:11-12

*11 And He said to them, To you has been entrusted the mystery of the kingdom of God [that is, the secret counsels of God which are hidden from the ungodly]; but for those outside [of our circle] everything becomes a parable,*

*--*

*12 In order that they may [indeed] look and look but not see and perceive, and may hear and hear but not grasp and comprehend, lest haply (accidentally) they should turn again, and it [their willful rejection of the truth] should be forgiven them. (AMP)*

--

Mark 4:13-20

--

*13 And he said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?*

*--*

*14 The sower sows the word.*

*--*

*15 And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them.*

*--*

*16 And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy.*

*--*

*17 And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away.*

*--*

*18 And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word,*

*--*

*19 but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.*

*--*

*20 But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold." (ESV)*

--

Matthew 22:1-14

*1 And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying,*

*--*

*2 "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son,*

*--*

*3 and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come.*

*--*

*4 Again he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast."'*

*--*

*5 But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business,*

*--*

*6 while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them.*

*--*

*7 The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.*

*--*

*8 Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy.*

*--*

*9 Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.'*

*--*

*10 And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.*

*--*

*11 "But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment.*

*--*

*12 And he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless.*

*--*

*13 Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'*

*--*

*14 For many are called, but few are chosen." (ESV)*

--

Chosen - (eklektos) "Selected especially as a deeply personal choice."

--

Strong's - "Those who choose to follow the Lord; to become God's choice by freely receiving faith from Him."

--

Luke 14:25-35

*25 Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them,*

*--*

*26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate (to detest or to love less) his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.*

*--*

*27 Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.*

*--*

*28 For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?*

*--*

*29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him,*

*--*

*30 saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'*

*--*

*31 Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand?*

*--*

*32 And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace.*

*--*

*33 So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.*

*--*

*34 "Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored?*

*--*

*35 It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear." (ESV)*

--

Matthew 13:44-50

*44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.*

*--*

*45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls,*

*--*

*46 who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.*

*--*

*47 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind.*

*--*

*48 When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad.*

*--*

*49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous*

*--*

*50 and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (ESV)*