HIDDEN TRUTHS IN THE PARABLES OF CHRIST

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Mark 4:1-20

*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.*

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

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

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

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*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.*

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

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

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

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

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

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Mark 4:11-12 (AMP)

*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,*

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*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)*

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*Mark 10:28-31*

*28 Peter began to say to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you."*

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*29 Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel,*

*--*

*30 who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.*

*--*

*31 But many who are first will be last, and the last first." (ESV)*

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John 8:31-36

*31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,*

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*32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

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*33 They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"*

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*34 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.*

*--*

*35 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.*

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*36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (ESV)*

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*"We must trust the truth before we will benefit from the truth."*

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Matthew 22:1-14

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

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*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.*

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*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."'*

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*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.*

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

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

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*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.*

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*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.*

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*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.'*

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

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

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

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Here's the key to really understanding these passages. Jesus loves us so much that He chose us, in spite of our sin and rebellion. He chose us and then He died for us. And now, He is calling us to choose Him. Until we realize that He is far more valuable than anything this world had to offer, choosing Him will be a decision too hard to make.

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Let's look at two final Scriptures. The first one is in...

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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)*

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Luke 23:33-43

*32 Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him.*

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*33 And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.*

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*34 And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.*

*--*

*35 And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!"*

*--*

*36 The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine*

*--*

*37 and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!"*

*--*

*38 There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."*

*--*

*39 One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!"*

*--*

*40 But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?*

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*41 And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong."*

*--*

*42 And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."*

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*43 And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise." (ESV)*