

Message #48**Matthew 13:10-17**

It is quite clear that God's Word is to be understood; however, it will only be understood to those of spiritual minds.

GOD'S WORD WILL ONLY BE UNDERSTOOD BY THOSE TO WHOM IT HAS BEEN GRANTED BY GOD, AND GOD WILL ONLY GRANT THIS PRIVILEGE TO THOSE WHO ARE RESPONDING TO IT.

Now multitudes were following Christ. Many people were thinking about joining in with Him, but their motive was more curiosity than commitment. Jesus knew that the majority of people crowding around Him were really not dedicated to Him. They weren't fooling Him. Parables had a way of communicating the truth of God. However, those listening would only grasp them at a shallow level.

I want you to carefully notice the question in **verse 10**. The disciples ask why you speak to them in parables. Parables were not new, but Jesus had never used them before so they wonder why the change in style of teaching.

JESUS' RESPONSE #1 – Disciples have been granted the privilege of understanding truth, but non-disciples have not. **13:11-12**

Now a mystery in the Bible is not something unknown to God, but is unknown to humans until God chooses to reveal it. God was nearing the point when He was going to reveal new data concerning kingdom truth and the only ones to whom it would be revealed would be those really right with Him. Those who were not right with God would not know the mysteries of God.

I want you to carefully notice what Jesus Christ is teaching—the ability to discern the things of God is a grant from God. It is given by God to those faithful.

Verse 12 further explains why Christ speaks in parables and his explanation is this—"I speak in parables so I can take those really right with me to deeper levels and so I can take those who really aren't right with me to their ignorant level."

There is no question that the use of a skill or faculty causes one to be more sharp.

The same principle is true in the spiritual life. God permits one who is learning and responding to grow more and more to become razor sharp in the spiritual life. However, one who does not respond will become less and less spiritual and less and less in their ability to grasp the Word of God.

JESUS' RESPONSE #2 – Jesus speaks in parables so certain people will not understand.

13:13

There are those who will not see, hear or understand. There are those God does not want to understand His truth.

Sometimes we will hear an argument which says what about those poor people who have never heard. Did we ever stop to think that God doesn't want them to hear? Maybe they have so rebelled against Him in such hateful ways that He is hiding His truth from them.

But here is a very important point to remember. Just because a person goes to church and looks at a Bible or hears a message does not mean God lets them really understand it.

JESUS' RESPONSE #3 – Jesus speaks in parables to fulfill prophecy. **13:14-15**

The prophetic portion of Scripture that Jesus uses is Isaiah 6:9-10. It is interesting that Jesus' quote is not verbatim. In other words, He paraphrases what it says.

Now in the context of the Isaiah quote is that judgment is coming to those who have hardened their hearts against God (Is. 6:11-12). This is scary because Jesus is saying I am hiding my truth from those who have hardened their hearts until My judgment comes to destroy them.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is very obvious that it is serious business to not respond to the Word of God. If God permits one to go into a spiritual stupor, it is actually His judgment until the time of a more serious judgment.

JESUS' RESPONSE #4 – Those who are His true disciples are blessed. **13:16-17**

There are two reasons they were blessed:

(Reason #1) - God had permitted them to understand His truth.

(Reason #2) - God had permitted them to actually learn this truth from God Himself.

Parting Thoughts:

- 1. Those who truly want to know God's Word must respond to God's Word.**
- 2. Our responsibility is to sow the seed of the Word of God.**
- 3. We must realize that some will respond and some won't; but God is sovereign in either case.**
- 4. It is a very serious matter to refuse to respond to the Word of God—such a reaction does not go unnoticed by God and eventually will be judged by God.**