

## Matthew 13:1-3, 10-16 Understanding the Mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven

Introduction: This title is taken from verse 11. The setting for the occasion is seen in verses 1 and 2. On the seashore Jesus began to speak in parables.

### I. The switch to parables, Verse 3.

- A. "He spake many things to them in parables."
  - 1. There were seven parables.
  - 2. They are called kingdom parables because in them He reveals "the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven"
  - 3. Verse 34 says that He spoke to them only in parables.
- B. The disciples were caught by surprise by the parables, verse 10.
  - 1. Not that they were unaccustomed to hearing parables.
  - 2. Not that they had never heard Jesus use parables.
  - 3. What surprised them was that He spoke in parables only, verse 34.

### II. Questions about the parables.

- A. The disciples asked the Lord why He spoke only in parables to the multitude, verse 10. (His answer was that it is given to the disciples to know the mysteries of God, but to the unsaved it is not given, verse 11.) This brings questions of our own.
- B. What is a parable?  
(A parable is a simple life-like story that is used to illustrate a truth.)
- C. What is meant by the term "the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven"?
  - 1. The Greek word for "mysteries" means "A matter of knowledge which can only be understood by the initiated."
  - 2. As in words or symbols used by secret orders.
  - 3. Others may see the symbol and hear the symbolic word, but they will not understand the meaning.
  - 4. Thus Jesus spoke seven parables which reveal certain truths about the kingdom of heaven but only God's initiated (the saved) can understand the meaning of the parables.

### III. Back to the original question.

(Why did Jesus speak to the multitudes in these mysterious symbols?)

- A. Because the Old Testament prophet had predicted that He would, verses 34-35.
- B. Because God gave the privilege of understanding the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven only to the redeemed, verse 11.
  - 1. Before one can understand Christianity he must be born again.
  - 2. Then he will have the privilege of understanding, verse 12.
  - 3. Otherwise he will hear but not understand.

### IV. The key to understanding the symbols.

- A. The key is the heart of the individual.  
(As an unsaved person he is given enough information to know how to be saved.)
- B. If in his heart he wants to be saved, he will trust Jesus and be saved and he will begin to learn more.
- C. But if he does not in his heart want to trust Jesus and be saved, he will deliberately confuse the gospel and close his own eyes to it, verse 15.

Conclusion:

1. You can never understand the symbols of Masonry unless you first become a Mason.
2. Likewise you can never understand what Christianity is all about until you become a Christian.
3. What do you, in your heart, want to do? Do you want to be saved? If so, come now and trust Jesus Christ.

Preached at Pleasant Hill M.B.C. 2-19-84 A.M.