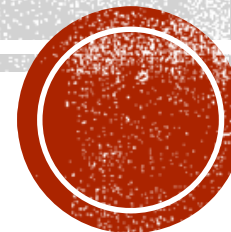


THE PURPOSE OF PARABLES

Matthew 13:10-17



MATTHEW 13:10-17

- God's sovereignty (10-12)
- Man's responsibility (13-15)
- Prophets' curiosity (16-17)



MAIN POINT

- Once we see that Jesus is the King of the kingdom, we then must engage with his kingdom message.



BOTH/AND

- Matthew...wishes to simultaneously affirm that what is taking place in the ministry of Jesus is, on the one hand, the decreed will of God and the result of biblical prophecy and, on the other hand, a terrible rebellion, gross spiritual dullness, and chronic unbelief. This places the responsibility for the divine rejection of those who fail to become disciples on their own shoulders while guaranteeing that none of what takes places stands outside God's control and plan. (D.A. Carson)



MYSTERY REVEALED

- The new truth, now given to men by revelation in the person and mission of Jesus is that the kingdom which is to come finally in apocalyptic power, as foreseen by Daniel, has in fact entered into the world in advance in a hidden form to work secretly within and among men. (G. Ladd)



WHAT PARABLES ARE NOT

- Moralistic fables
- Sermon illustrations
- Extremely detailed hidden picture puzzles



WHAT PARABLES ARE

- Intuitive (you get them or you don't; what frequency?)
- Stories with intent (the intent of the one telling the story)
- Window scenes (as we look into the kingdom)
 - Representative stories about the kingdom of God
- Imaginary gardens with real toads in them
 - Fictitious stories designed to bait the hearer to hear the truth
- Postcards from the kingdom saying, "Wish you were here!"

