



**"More Than A Story:
The Purpose Of The Parables"**
Matthew 13:1-3, 10-17, 31-33, 47-50

September 8, 2024

Pastor Bear Clifton

1. Larry Norman's classic song *The Outlaw* is a good introduction to our new series.

2. Parables for Jesus were a strategic form of communication. They were far more than stories. They were...

S_____

S_____

D_____

K _____ P _____

So why study the parables this fall?

Because the parables have the power to _____ from spiritual slumber,

_____ the values of God's kingdom I'm to live by,

_____ to put God's kingdom first above anything else, and

_____ to follow Jesus as my King for the rest of my life.

3. If we want to know why Jesus used parables, we first must examine the crowd around Jesus, and figure out who is in it (vs.2). Who is in the "crowd"?

4. Why such a mixed group? How does Matthew describe the early days of Jesus's public ministry in chapters 4-12?

What were the first public words out of Jesus's mouth?

What was his first major public discourse? And why was it significant?

What else did Jesus do besides teach and preach?

How did people respond to him (especially the religious leaders?)

How does this context help understand why Jesus now shifts to using parables?

5. Some observations about how Matthew organizes chapter 13:

6. When the disciples ask Jesus why he speaks to the crowd in parables, what is his answer? (vss.10-17). What does he mean by it?

7. If I were in the crowd that day, which of them would I be? I can tell by how I'd respond to the 5 parables Jesus closes the chapter with.

a. What's the theme of the parables of the mustard seed and the leaven? (vss.31-33)

What are some questions I should ask myself here?

b. What's the theme of the parables of the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price? (vss.44-46)

What are some questions I should ask myself here?

c. What's the theme of the parable of the net? (vss.47-50)

What are some questions I should ask myself here?

What is the Lord speaking to my heart today?

