

Matthew 13 - parables.

Jesus spoke many parables and perhaps not even all His parables are published in the NT. Several parables only appear in one of the gospels while not appearing in the other gospels. Then is the debate on what are genuine parables or which sayings of Jesus are more allegories. Parables as AI describes it are; 'a short, metaphorical story used to teach a moral, religious, or philosophical lesson. Derived from the Greek word parabole (meaning "to cast alongside" or "compare"), it bridges an abstract or spiritual truth with a concrete, everyday situation'. But, who cares about the difference between alegories and parables, what Jesus said was relevant, whether it was plain talk or in parables.

It sounds odd, but when Jesus spoke in parables it was not to for the people to understand Him better, on the contrary He spoke in parables, so the people could not understand Him. The parables made every hearer to hear in His words what they wanted to hear.

So, the parables Jesus spoke had different impacts on different people. For the pharisees and scribes the parables became a threat to their position, for others it were stories about daily life and each took from the parable something they wanted to take.

The parables Jesus spoke were to fulfill what was prophesied by the prophet Isaiah who said in Isaiah 6:8-10; '8 And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me." 9 And he said, "Go, and say to this people: 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.' 10 Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.'

Parables were a common way of speaking by the Rabbis and the people were accustomed to this type of speaking. But Jesus spoke His parables not to teach the people, but to hid the truth for them. Theologians from the past hinted at the idea that if the people would have understood His words, they would not have asked for His death and then the ministry of Christ would have collapsed. Somehow it did fit all in God's plan. The apostle Paul already wrote a similar idea in Romans chapter 9 and 10. Prof. Leckey in the 19th Century worded this in these words: 'Jesus took upon Himself not only the glory as the Son of men, but also the burden as the man of sorrows'. Between those two Jesus had to exercise His ministry in both being the Son of men send by God, Who in being also the man of sorrows should have to give His life for all in His crucifixion on the cross.

Jesus spoke in parables and kept the people ready to reject Him in the end, so He could become Gods chosen Saviour for the whole world, instead of only for one nation.