

SPEAKING IN PARABLES

Matthew 13:34-35 NIV - Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet: "I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world." (Quoting Psalm 78:1.)

DESCRIPTION

Jesus spoke in parables. Particularly when He spoke to "outsiders," He used parables to relate spiritual realities by comparing them to earthly subjects, objects, tasks, or stories. Jesus used parables when speaking to the masses, teaching in synagogues, or talking at dinner parties. Those with ears to hear realized that He was communicating spiritual truth.

As we share Jesus and His Kingdom with others, the Holy Spirit is able to guide us into sharing parables that the people we are speaking to can easily understand. As an evangelism tool, we can use parables to point to the eternal work of Jesus, to transition conversation from worldly things to the Kingdom of God, or to expose a problem without bringing condemnation. These metaphors are useful for bringing Kingdom perspective into almost any situation.

Practicing Speaking in Parables is about relating to others using examples from real life so that they can hear the Word of the Kingdom and turn to Jesus.

CONSIDERATIONS

How does a parable make things easier for people to understand? Particularly those not yet following Jesus?

Why do you think Jesus taught in parables rather than explaining the Scriptures or giving rules to follow?

PRAYER

Father, thank you that you reveal yourself to people using examples we can understand. Help me to speak in parables the way Jesus speaks so that others may come to know you. In Jesus' name, Amen.



PURPOSE:

To speak the way that Jesus spoke.

To share truths of Jesus and His Kingdom.

To communicate spiritual realities using practical examples from real life.

SPIRITUAL FRUIT:

Better communication with all kinds of people at any stage of life or faith.

Greater confidence in sharing Jesus and the truth of His Kingdom with others.

Increase in being the light of the world to those who are in darkness.

PRACTICE



1. Ask the Lord help you create parables in one or more of the categories below. As you do, keep the following in mind:
 - What is the parable? What are you comparing?
 - What point, truth, or principle are you trying to convey?
 - What is the desired result, conviction, or action you desire the hearer to take from the parable?
2. Ask the Lord to help you share the parables in a way that:
 - States the comparison without unnecessary complexity.
 - Boldly but gently delivers the point, truth, or principle.
 - Brings conviction to the heart and motivates right action.
 - Glorifies God and points the hearers back to Jesus.

Parables for Kingdom truth: Consider one aspect of life with Jesus, what He did/does for us, or what it means for mankind.

- Ask the Lord to help you relate this aspect to something from normal life, something found in nature, or a made up story to express the point you want to convey. (Examples in Scripture include: light/darkness, Shepherd with sheep, Bride and Bridegroom, slavery/freedom, etc.)

Parable as segue to salvation: As you participate in everyday conversation with people, take note of the topic of discussion.

- In one word, what is the topic/theme of conversation?
- Ask the Lord to help you see how this topic/theme could become an analogy for explaining a Kingdom truth. (Examples: Topic/Theme=War: Analogy=War for our soul; Topic= Marriage: Analogy=Marriage of the Lamb; etc.)

Parable to expose a problem: When you listen to the troubles of others, try to pinpoint the problem from God's perspective.

- Ask the Lord to identify the real issue or problem.
- Ask the Lord to help you relate the real issue to something from normal life, something found in nature, or a made up story that exposes the problem. (Note: This is different than sharing a similar story from our own life.)

NOTES: _____

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES:

Matthew 13, 26

Luke 14, 15, 16

Psalms 78

Psalms 42:1-2

2 Samuel 12:1-4

Isaiah 5:1-7

2 Samuel 14:1-11

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Galatians 4:21-31