Teaching Series: The Parables of Jesus

Message: Heart Matters

Matthew 13:10-17

Why parables?

* Jesus always taught using parables (Mk. 4:34a)
* Were they just illustrations of Jesus’ teaching?
* People often didn’t understand Jesus’ parables (Mk.4:34b)
* More to the parables than meets the eye!
* Jesus spoke in parables to reveal the truths about the Kingdom to some but conceal it from others! What?!
* Jesus use of parables *reveals the heart of the listener*

Matthew 13:10-17

1. The Disciples’ Question: Why do you speak to the people (Gk. *them*) in parables?
2. Jesus’ First Answer - Two groups: “you” and “them”
	1. Mk.4:11 - “those outside” (the crowd) and “insiders” (Jesus followers)
	2. The secrets (Gk. mystery) of the Kingdom of Heaven (Eph.1:7, 3:4)
		1. Given to His followers
		2. Not given to those outside(?)
	3. Explanation - the “have’s and have nots”
3. Jesus’ Answer - Prophecy Fulfilled
	1. Jesus describes the “have nots”
		1. Isaiah 6:9-10
		2. Hardened hearts and determined unbelief
	2. Jesus describes the “haves”
		1. The listen and follow
		2. They seek understanding
4. The difference between the “haves” and “have nots”
	1. The Parable of the Sower
	2. The condition of the heart matters
	3. Humble or hardened?

Big Idea: God reveals the Good News to the humble and teachable person who inclines their heart toward Him but doesn’t to the person who hardens their heart and rejects Him.

Reflection:

1. In what ways might I be so caught up in pride, selfishness, or unforgiveness that I’ve stopped up my ears and closed my eyes to God and His Word?
2. How can I regularly and routinely seek God’s wisdom and direction in my relationship with Him?
3. Is there something that God wants me to do or stop doing that I am ignoring or refusing to do?

Matthew 13:10-17, NIV

 10 The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?”

 11 He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. 12 Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. 13 This is why I speak to them in parables:

“Though seeing, they do not see;

though hearing, they do not hear or understand.

14 In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:

“‘You will be ever hearing but never understanding;

you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.

15 For this people’s heart has become calloused;

they hardly hear with their ears,

and they have closed their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes,

hear with their ears,

understand with their hearts

and turn, and I would heal them.’

16 But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. 17 For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.