

CouplesInBloom.com – **Storiated To Understand**

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Coming near, the disciples said to Jesus, **Why do You speak to them in parables?** ⇨ Matthew 13:10. In verses 11-17, Jesus answers from Isaiah 6:9-10, which basically says, ‘Whoever does not harden their heart **will understand** My parables **and** will be healed. Whoever hardens their heart **will NOT understand** My parables and will **not** be healed.’

Matthew 13:12 ⇨ Whoever has will be given more, and he will have overabundance; whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. The word **has** literally translates **hold**; seeking God is how to gain, and not seeking God is how to lose. Seeking takes **effort**. Example: looking up and pondering the verses referenced here takes **effort**.

Do you understand your spouse? Does your spouse understand you? Matthew 13:10-17 teaches us how to understand each other. Christian disciples are called the Bride of Christ ⇨ Revelation 21. This spiritual relationship is the Christian marriage pattern.

Communication has conditions: it requires reaching and receptivity; action and appetite; digging and digestion; voicing and verifying. How many times have we heard, **“I heard you but I wasn’t really listening”?** **God’s communication has lessons for us.**

Jesus lived this truth long before someone ‘quoted’ it: ‘Facts tell, stories sell.’ Parables are stories that raise curiosity but have conditional comprehension. Jesus did not just give facts about what He was saying. Instead, He put it in story form. **Why?** For **relationship!**

God gave the rest of creation ‘just the facts’. Plants and animals follow His instruction automatically. Mankind, however, was made in His image ⇨ Genesis 1:26-27 and therefore has a free will, among other things. Using stories and parables instead of facts provides the opportunity for interpretation. Those not interested in the story dismiss it, and those who are interested in it pay attention. **Stories test the free will of the hearers.**

Marriage application: men, like God, have the ability to stick to the facts. Remember the ‘instincts’ God gave plants and animals. Women, like the Bride of Christ, are story-oriented (*made-up word: storiated*). God invented both facts and stories; facts are for information and stories are for relationship. Relationship is Isaiah’s and Jesus’ message.

When husbands and wives do not understand each other, their **relating** has a problem (which is far more accurate than saying their **relationship** has a problem). They need to fully give and fully receive the whole **story**. Hectic cultures are **anti-relating**. Communication is impersonalized down to facts: PowerPoint, texting, and info-mercials. A more-more, faster-faster society directly assaults healthy marriage communication.

1 Corinthians 13:4 ⇨ Love is **patient**: *literal translation: long spirited, forbearing, enduring temper, lenient* and good marriages have good communication made of these.

How to understand each other in these times: follow Jesus: get **storiated**. It slows us down from impersonal facts to personal stories, allowing understanding frequently lost through impatient and seemingly uncaring attitudes and lifestyles. **“But I don’t mean to be this way!”** you say. Unless we **mean** to relate well, we often do not. Intimacy will increase when we are **storiated**, because it provides more information than mere facts. Being **storiated** communicates **understanding** of **relationship**. ♥ Loren&Kathy Falzone