

CouplesInBloom.com – Purpose Of Parables

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Matthew 13:34-35 ⇒ “Jesus spoke all these things in parables to the crowds, and He **did not speak to them without a parable**, so that was fulfilled that spoken through the prophet, saying: “I will open My mouth in parables; I will speak out things hidden from the foundation of the world.”” from Psalm 78:2-4 ⇒ “I will open my mouth in a parable; I will speak dark sayings of old, which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their sons, showing to the generations to come the praises of Jehovah, and His strength, and His wonderful works that He has done.”

Parables are not cute stories from a story teller! The Biblical context of that Hebrew word **parable** is: *superiority in mental action; properly a pithy maxim*. More definitions are needed here; **pithy** is: *brief, forceful, and meaningful in expression*; **maxim** is: *established principle or proposition generally received or admitted as true; nearly the same in popular usage as axiom in philosophy and mathematics*. Parables were the **only way** God spoke to these folks! Learn why, and what parables actually are:

Matthew 13:10-17 quotes Isaiah 6:9-10 ⇒ Jesus used parables so those who chose to callous their heart against Him could not be healed. This is a lesson for us in itself: Jesus had to leave some folks and so must we ⇒ Matthew 13:53-58. See what parables are and why Christianity uses them: **a parable is a dance between a method and a message:**

A **parabola** geometrically directs approaching inputs to one point (called the focus). This mathematical event is an **axiom**: truth self-evident to **those who study** math. Jesus used such **pithy maxims / parables** to reveal spiritual truth to **those who study** truth ⇒ Matthew 5:6. The **pithy** part of Christianity is that it is relationship based. The **maxim** part of Christianity is that it works for **those who study** and learn what **parables** mean.

Jesus’ willingness that none go to hell ⇒ 2 Peter 3:9 did **not** mean He **spoon-fed** them to become lazy, non-relational, non-studying people. On the contrary, Jesus was known for **pithy, brief, forceful, and meaningful maxims** and **axioms**, even offending many people who stopped following Him after hearing His **strong words** ⇒ John 6:66. Many ‘Christian’ messages today cowardly avoid using such **brief, forceful, and meaningful expressions**... keeping truth from those they should be ministering to ⇒ Revelation 21:8.

The **purpose of parables** is to distinguish hardened hearts from receptive hearts. If we are offended by God’s **pithy, brief, forceful, meaningful expressions** in His **maxims / axioms / parables**, then our selfishness proves our priority over God’s intentional focus.

Parables filter out: the greedy from the hungry; the religious from the relational; the seekers from the finders. Refusing to follow God’s dance from the method to the message reveals our ultimate motivation. Psalm 78 ⇒ is about **parables**, and how they reveal God’s **love** for the people He created. The **filtering out** process is ultimately about a **love** relationship... revealing who actually **wants** to reciprocate God’s love and who does not.

Important regarding **filtering out**: the difference between sinners ⇒ 1 Timothy 1:15 and swine ⇒ Matthew 7:6 is the heart; Jesus related to sinners, but not to swine. **Parables** are **forceful** yet protect relationships; the **purpose of parables** is revealing God’s **love**. ♥