

“The Mysteries of God’s Kingdom”
Matthew 13:1-23

Sehnsucht

*the longing for the mysterious, the wonderful,
the other-worldly that our daily experience
does not satisfy*

Romans 16:25,26

Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith

I. Jesus Reveals Mystery in Parables

A. Use of Parables

“Speech of this kind has a special attraction for the peoples of the East, with whom the imagination is quicker and more active than logical faculty.”

I. Jesus Reveals Mystery in Parables

A. Use of Parables

B. Parables Defined

“All things in Nature are prophetic outlines of Divine operations.” - Tertullian

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A. Use of Parables

B. Parables Defined

C. Reasons Why Jesus Used Parables

II. The Parable of the Sower

A. Three Major Elements

B. The Goal in View

C. The Four Soils

1. Mr. Hard-to-Believe

1 Corinthians 2:14

But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised

Do you think any farmer would have a crop of corn next year unless he plowed now? You may as well expect a crop of corn on unplowed ground as a crop of grace until the soul is convinced of its being undone without a Savior. That is the reason we have so many mushroom converts, so many persons that are always happy, happy, happy, and never were miserable. Why? Because their stony ground is not plowed up; they have not got a conviction of the law. They fall away. That makes me so cautious now, which I was not 30 years ago, of dubbing converts too soon.

Now I wait a little, and see if people bring forth fruit; for there are so many blossoms which March winds blow away that I cannot believe they are converts till I see fruit brought forth.

- George Whitefield

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3. Mr. Worldly

Mark 4:19 - “the desire for other things”
Luke 8:14 - “pleasures of life”

2 Timothy 4:9,10

Make every effort to come to me soon; for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica

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