

A PARABLE ABOUT PARABLES

Matthew 13:1-23



HOW WILL YOU UNDERSTAND?

- This is the question asked by Jesus in Mark's account (Mk. 4:13).
- We use Scripture's own interpretation as a key to other parts (Matt. 22:31-32; Heb. 7:1-17).
- It is not just an opportunity; it is an expectation (Matt. 19:4).
- Jesus is actually saying this before the explanation.



HEARING THE EXPLANATION

- The parable is about hearing and receiving (Matt. 13:9, 11-13).
- That means the instruction is geared toward the soils (Matt. 13:19).
- Where do you think the Pharisees viewed themselves in this parable?



HEARING AND NOT UNDERSTANDING

- Too often we ignore what is explicitly explained (Matt. 13:36-40).
- We ignore context (Lk. 15:1-3).
- We imagine ourselves as sympathetic characters (Lk. 15:11-32).
- Or we offer sympathetic explanations of wicked characters (Lk. 19:22).
- This is not a matter of capacity (cf. Num. 22:31-34).

