

## Why Did Christ Speak In Parables

### The Disciples as the Question

In the next questions you are going to compare three Gospel passages that quote the same Old Testament passage in a similar context. Each of the three gospels record Christ's words slightly different. You will have to read the records carefully to find the subtle differences. It is quite interesting to see how these small differences significantly change the meaning of the passage.

### A. Matthew 13

1. What did the apostles ask? (Matt 13v10) \_\_\_\_\_
2. What had Christ said that had brought on the question? (Matt 13v3-8) \_\_\_\_\_  
What was the first answer to their question? (Matt 13v11) \_\_\_\_\_
- ECQ#1 What does the English word Mystery mean? *(Answer on the back of this paper)*
- ECQ#2 What does the Greek word Mystery mean? *(Answer on the back of this paper)*
3. TQ What do you think the phrase "to them it is not given" means? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Summarize Matthew 13v12 \_\_\_\_\_
5. TQ Do you think that this is fair? Why or why not? (Matt 13v12) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ECQ#3 Where does Christ illustrate Matthew 13v12 in a parable? *(Answer on the back of this paper)*
- ECQ#4 What does God say He has done in Matthew 11v25? *(Answer on the back of this paper)*
6. What further three reason does Christ give? (Matt 13v13a,b,c)
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Why does Christ say that this is happening? (Matt 13v14) \_\_\_\_\_
8. Where is Christ quoting from? (Matt 13v14) \_\_\_\_\_
9. Why did Christ say that this would happen to the people? (Matt 13v15) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Why couldn't the people understand the Gospel? (Matt 13v15)  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. How did the apostles understand these parables? (Matt 13v11,18-23,36-37)  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. How often did Christ speak in parables to the people? (Matt 13v34) \_\_\_\_\_
13. TQ Do you think that the multitudes understood the parables? Why or Why not?  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. TQ Do you think that this was fair? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. TQ Do you think that Parables are easy to understand? Why or why not?  
\_\_\_\_\_
16. What additional the purpose did the Parables have? (Matt 13v35) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
17. TQ What kind of information was being revealed? (Matt 13v35) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

18. TQ What do you think that this phrase means? Matt 13v35) (*Give Examples*)

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19. TQ Do you think Parables reveal or conceal information? Explain

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20. Do you think that Christ wanted the multitudes to understand the parables? Why or Why not?

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### **B. Mark 4**

1. What does Christ say was the first purpose of teaching in Parables? (Mark 4v11a)

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2. What was the second purpose of teaching in parables? (Mark 4v11b-12)

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3. TQ Read carefully Mark 4v12. What do you think that the word “that” mean in this passage?

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4. TQ Read carefully Mark 4v12. What do you think that the word “lest” mean in this passage?

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5. Where is this quoted from? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Does Mark give any reason why this would or should happens to the “them”? (*Compare with Matth v14-15* (Mark 4v11-12) \_\_\_\_\_

7. TQ How does Mark record’s change the meaning of this passage? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. The way that Mark records this discussion, do you think that this seems fair to “them”? Why or why not? (Read carefully 4v11-12) \_\_\_\_\_

9. TQ In Mark 4v13 Christ states “Know ye not this parable? And how then will ye know all parables”. What do you think that Christ was saying? \_\_\_\_\_

ECQ#5 What does this say about the Parable and its Interpretation? (*Answer on the back of this paper*)

### **C. Luke 8**

1. What does Christ say is the first purpose of speaking in parables? (Luke 8v10a)

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2. What does Christ say is the second purpose of speaking in Parables? (Luke 8v10b)

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3. Where is Christ quoting from? (Luke 8v10b) \_\_\_\_\_

4. TQ Read carefully Luke 8v10. Does Luke’s account seem to follow Matthew or Mark? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Does Christ in Luke’s account give anything that the people did to cause Christ to speak in Parables?

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6. TQ Does the way Luke records this seem “fair” to you? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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ECQ#6 Do you think that anyone listening to this parable would have known that the birds represented “the devil”? Why or why not? (*Answer on the back of this paper*)

### **D. John 12v37-41 Why did the people of Jesus’ day not believe in him?**

1. What does John say about the people in verse 37? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Where is this predicted in the Old Testament? (John 12v38) \_\_\_\_\_

3. What is the first explanation of why the people did not believe in Christ? (John 12v38a)

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4. Where is this quoted from? (John 12v38b)
5. TQ What do you think that John is saying in John 12v37-38 why the people didn't believe Christ?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What does John say in verse 39a? \_\_\_\_\_
7. TQ What do you think that this means? (John 12v39b) \_\_\_\_\_
8. TQ Did the people have a possibility to believe what Christ said? Explain (John 12v39a)  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. TQ Does this seem fair to you? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_
10. TQ Who do you think that the "he" is in verse 40? \_\_\_\_\_
11. What two things did the "he" do to the people? (John 12v40a)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. What three things would be the result of what "he" did? (John 12v40b) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. What Old Testament passage is quoted in verse 40? \_\_\_\_\_
14. Does John quote the passage accurately according to your version of the Bible? (Give details)  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. TQ What do you think that the phrase "he hath blinded his eyes" mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
16. TQ What do you think "He hath ... hardened hearts" mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
17. TQ How does this compare with Matthew's explanation why the people were blinded? (Cp Matt 13v15) \_\_\_\_\_

### E. Isaiah 6

1. Who was the King of Judah in this chapter? (Isaiah 6v1) (*Hint: When a King died his son would become the current King*) (2 Chronicles 26v21-27v2) \_\_\_\_\_
  2. What kind of King was this man? (2 Chron 27v2) \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Describe what Isaiah saw? (Isaiah 6v1-4) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ECQ#7 Draw a picture of what Isaiah saw. (Isaiah 6v1-4) (*Answer on the back of this paper*)
4. What was Isaiah's reaction to the vision? (Isaiah 6v5) \_\_\_\_\_
  5. What did God do? (Isaiah 6v6-7) \_\_\_\_\_
  6. What did God ask? (Isaiah 6v8a) \_\_\_\_\_
  7. What did Isaiah answer? (Isaiah 6v8b) \_\_\_\_\_
  8. What two things did the Seraphim tell Isaiah to tell the people in verse 9?
    1. \_\_\_\_\_
    2. \_\_\_\_\_
  9. What three instruction did the Seraphim give in Isaiah 6v10a? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  10. Why were these instructions given to Isaiah? (Isaiah 6v10b starting with "lest") (Three things)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  11. TQ What do you think that this means? \_\_\_\_\_

12. TQ How would you summarize the goal of Isaiah's mission? (Isaiah 6v9-10) \_\_\_\_\_
13. Do you think it would be the people's fault that they wouldn't believe Isaiah's preaching? Why or why not? (Isaiah 6v9-10) \_\_\_\_\_
14. Do the Seraphim give any reason why Isaiah is to preach this? (Isaiah 6v9-10) \_\_\_\_\_
15. Do you think that Isaiah's mission was fair to the people? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

ECQ#8 Who is sitting on the throne? Compare John with Isaiah 6v with John 12v41. *(Answer on the back of this paper)*

### F. Acts 28

1. Read Acts 28v26-27. How does Paul's quoting of Isaiah 6 differ from our version of Isaiah 6? *(Give details)* \_\_\_\_\_

ECQ#9 How does Paul's quoting of Isaiah 6 differ from the Septuagint translation? *(Answer on the back of this paper)*

2. TQ Do you think that Paul has accurately reflected Isaiah 6? Why or Why not? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Why does Paul say that the people would not hear? (Acts 28v27) \_\_\_\_\_
4. How much blame for the problem does Paul place on the people who heard? (Acts 28v27) \_\_\_\_\_
5. How is this different from John 12v39-40? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What was going to happen because the people did not believe? (Acts 28v28c) \_\_\_\_\_

### G. Romans 11

1. What is Paul's concern in Romans 10? (Romans 10v1) \_\_\_\_\_
2. What question does Paul ask in Romans 11v1a? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the answer to the question Paul asked? (Romans 11v2a) \_\_\_\_\_
4. What does Paul contrast in Romans 11v6? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What do you think Paul means by the term "election" in Romans 11v7? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Why didn't the majority of Israel obtained being God's people? (Romans 11v7) \_\_\_\_\_
7. What verse does Paul quote to prove his point? (Romans 11v8) \_\_\_\_\_
8. Does Paul quote this verse as it appears in your Bible? What differences are there? (Romans 11v8) \_\_\_\_\_
9. What three things had God given Israel? (Romans 11v8)
1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Was this the people's fault in something they had done or was it something God had done? (Romans 11v8) (Explain \_\_\_\_\_
11. What does Romans 11v9 quote David as saying? \_\_\_\_\_
12. What does the word "let" mean in verses 9 & 10. \_\_\_\_\_
13. Describe in your own words what David was saying about Israel. *(Hint: Is David saying something nice about Israel?)* \_\_\_\_\_

14. Where is this passage quoted from? \_\_\_\_\_
15. What “principle” chooses or decides who “sees” and who is “blinded”? (Romans 11v7)  
\_\_\_\_\_
16. Does this principle have anything do to with the people themselves? (You can use this passage, [Romans 11v2,5-7] or you can use Paul’s exposition of the principle in Romans 9v6-23)  
\_\_\_\_\_
17. Ask two people what this principle means. (Romans 11v7)
1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
18. Explain what you think “election” means. Romans 11v2,5-7, 9v6-23) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## H. 2 Thessalonians 2

1. What does Paul say must happen before the Day of Christ? (2 Thess 2v3a)  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. TQ What do you think that this means? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What would appear before the day of Christ? (2 Thess 2v3b) \_\_\_\_\_
4. What does this person do? (2 Thess 2v4) \_\_\_\_\_
5. TQ What do you think that this means? \_\_\_\_\_
- ECQ#10 What Old Testament personality “sat” in the Temple of God? (*Answer on the back of this paper*)
6. What does Paul say about this movement in the First Century? (2 Thess 2v7)  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What will happen to this movement at the return of Christ? (2 Thess 2v8) \_\_\_\_\_
8. What will God do because of this movement? (2 Thess 2v11a) \_\_\_\_\_
9. What is God’s purpose in doing this? (2 Thess 2v11b) \_\_\_\_\_
10. What would be the result of what God did? (2 Thess 2v12) \_\_\_\_\_
11. In this case, it is God acting first, or the people doing something that causes God to punish them?  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. How do you think that this verse applies to the churches around us? \_\_\_\_\_
- ECQ#11 What do you think that the “strong delusion that they should believe a lie” is?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## I. Why did Christ speak in Parables

1. How often did Christ speak in Parables? (Mark 4v33-34, Matthew 13v34) \_\_\_\_\_
2. In terms of the apostles, why did Christ speak in Parables? (The above sections A-D)  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. In terms of the “them”, why did Christ speak in Parables?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. In this study we have seen two different reasons why this happened to “them”. What are the two reasons.
1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
5. In Christ’s day, what happened to people who didn’t take the time to find out what Christ meant by his Parables? \_\_\_\_\_
6. How does this apply to us today? \_\_\_\_\_