

# Ears to Hear

Matthew 13:1

## Parables

- large crowds
  - he got into a boat
  - all the people stood on the shore

## Parables

- he told them many things in parables...
  - sayings or stories
    - use analogies to reveal or conceal truth

## Parables

- Understanding Parables:
  - Sometimes there is just one main point.
  - Other times, they are allegorical where multiple details are symbolic.
  - Be careful not to press every detail for significance.

## Parables

- He who has ears,
  - let him hear.
    - Jesus is calling us to a place of understanding and accepting the kingdom.

## Revealing

- Why do you speak to the people in parables?
  - crowds attracted by miracles
    - Are they there for a show and few good stories or are they eager recipients of the kingdom?

## Revealing

- the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven
  - has been given you
- but not to them

## Revealing

- whoever has will be given more
  - and he will have an abundance
- true openness and insight that leads one to embrace Jesus and his kingdom

## Revealing

- Whoever does not have,
  - even what he has will be taken from him
- Even what little understanding they have will be taken away.

## Concealing

- This is why I speak to them in parables:
  - Though seeing, they do not see;
  - Though hearing, they do not hear or understand

## Concealing

- In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah
  - this people's heart has become calloused
    - "thick, fat, dull"
  - they hardly hear
  - they have closed their eyes

## Concealing

- Their lack of understanding was not due to intellectual limitations.
  - It was the result of hardened hearts.
  - They were unwilling to see and understand.

## Concealing

- Otherwise, they would turn
- and I would heal them.

## Concealing

- The mysteries of the kingdom are hidden to those whose hearts are dull and shut off.
- Jesus is sowing the seed, but who will understand and receive the blessings of the kingdom?

## Ears to Hear

- blessed are
  - your eyes because they see
  - your ears because they hear
- many prophets and righteous men longed to see...to hear

## Ears to Hear

- The kingdom of God has arrived.
- Understanding of the kingdom is given to those who are eager to receive it with glad and sincere hearts.

## Ears to Hear

- Open your eyes to the things of God.
- Listen attentively with ready obedience.
- Receive the message of the kingdom with eager hearts.