WHY TELL STORIES?

Here are a few rules for you as you engage in these parables:

• Be open to disrupting your routine, to letting God reshape your ideas about His Kingdom. Engage with scripture differently than you did before.

• Just like when Jesus spoke in these parables people are going to hear them differently. The way that our church leaders present these parables will not be the final word. You may have a different idea of these parables. Pay attention to how the spirit is leading you to hear these words.

• These parables, when done right, should bring comfort in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and they should absolutely bother you. That's the beauty of the good news. It comforts us and then confronts us.

Mark 4:10–13 New International Version (NIV)

10 When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. 11 He told them, “The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables 12 so that, “they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!”

13 Then Jesus said to them, “Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable?

Isaiah 6:8–10 NIV

8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"

And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

9 He said, “Go and tell this people: ‘Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving.’

10 Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.”

Matthew 13:34–35 NIV

34 Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. 35 So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet:

“I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world.”
Discussion Igniters

1. How would you rate your understanding of agrarian practices or culture?

2. Which soil best describes this season of your life?

3. What paths or patterns have worn you down?

4. What “rocks” have been revealed for excavation?

5. Which weeds or thorns are choking out your spiritual growth?

6. Where have you seen your soil produce a good harvest?

Going Deeper

READ

Stories with Intent: A Comprehensive Guide to the Parables of Jesus

Author: Klyne Snodgrass

WATCH

Episode 082 | Parable of the Soils
Pt 1: How’s Your Dirt?

Walking the Text // Brad Gray