

Bible Study



Wednesday,
May 23, 2012

What Is A Parable?

MATTHEW 13:1-3, 10-11

13:1 The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side.

13:2 And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.

13:3 And he spake many things unto them in parables.

13:10 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables?

13:11 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

1. The word “parable” comes from the Greek word “paraballo”, which means “to throw along side” and “to reach a place.”
2. The dictionary definition, “an allegorical representation of something from real life, from which a moral is drawn for instruction,” does not quite explain the purpose of Jesus’ parables.
3. Jesus’ parables presented a physical example to which people could relate, so that they could also relate to a spiritual truth.
4. Jesus’ parables used pictures from THIS world’s kingdom, to paint pictures of HIS kingdom.
5. A Bible parable is a story that everyone understands, that is laid parallel to a truth that we do not yet understand.
6. People who make no effort to seek God’s kingdom have no context to understand Christ’s parables.
7. The parables which we will study about the kingdom of God use pictures from this life, which we HAVE seen, to help us understand a new life which we have NOT yet seen.