

Teaching with Parables *from* Mark 4:1-20
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Jesus changed the method of His teaching from direct statements of truth to parabolic narrative. The disciples were puzzled by this change and sought to understand the difference. In order to understand the purpose for this change, we must not separate chapter 3 from chapter 4. The key to understanding the parables is to surrender your life to doing the will of God (3:35). There were many listening to Christ's teachings who had no intention of understanding. Therefore, they really never heard what Christ had taught. That scenario has not changed in our day.

1. The Importance (4:1-3a)

2. The Intention

A. The Human Perspective (Mark 4:9-12)

B. The Divine Perspective (Matthew 13:34-35; Psalm 78:1-3;
Isaiah 6:9; 55:11).

3. The Instruction (3b – 7, 14 – 20)

A. Three Bad Soils (4:3-7, 15-19)

B. One Good Soil (4:8, 20).