

# Mark 4:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And with many such parables spake he the word unto them, as they were able to hear it.

## Analysis

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Mark summarizes Jesus' teaching method: 'And with many such parables spake he the word unto them, as they were able to hear it.' The phrase 'many such parables' indicates Jesus used numerous similar illustrations beyond those recorded. He 'spake the word' (έλαλει...τὸν λόγον)—proclaimed God's message. The qualifier 'as they were able to hear' (καθὼς ἤδυναντο ἀκούειν) shows pedagogical wisdom: Jesus adapted instruction to hearers' capacity, not overwhelming with more than they could receive. This demonstrates progressive revelation—teaching foundational truths before advanced doctrine. Wise teachers discern students' receptivity and developmental stage, neither over-simplifying nor overwhelming.

## Historical Context

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Jesus' parabolic method characterized His public teaching throughout Galilee. Mark's phrase 'many such parables' indicates selective recording—Gospels preserve representative sample, not exhaustive catalog. Early church recognized this: 'Jesus did many other signs...not written' (John 20:30; 21:25). Jesus' pedagogical wisdom contrasted with scribal method of citing authorities and traditions. He taught with inherent authority using accessible illustrations. Early Christian education adopted graduated approach: milk for babes, solid food for mature (1 Corinthians 3:2; Hebrews 5:12-14). Church history emphasizes catechesis and progressive instruction.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does Jesus' adaptation to hearers' capacity model wise, patient teaching?
2. What does this teach about balancing accessibility with depth in communicating biblical truth?
3. How can you discern appropriate teaching level for different audiences without compromising content?

## Interlinear Text

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Καὶ τοιαύταις παραβολαῖς πολλαῖς ἐλάλει αὐτοῖς τὸν  
And such parables with many spake he unto them G3588  
G2532 G5108 G3850 G4183 G2980 G846

λόγον καθὼς ἦδύναντο ἀκούειν.  
the word as they were able to hear  
G3056 G2531 G1410 G191

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 16:12** (Parallel theme): I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.