

Matthew 13:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables;
and without a parable spake he not unto them:

Analysis

All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables (παραβολαῖς, parabolais)—from para (beside) and ballō (to throw), meaning a comparison or illustration placed alongside truth. Jesus's exclusive use of parables (**without a parable spake he not unto them**) fulfilled prophetic purpose (v. 35) but also served dual function: revealing truth to disciples while concealing it from hardened hearts (v. 11-13).

Parables were not simplifications but sophisticated theological teaching requiring spiritual discernment. The form was common in rabbinic Judaism, but Jesus's kingdom parables were revolutionary—depicting not political restoration but spiritual realities accessible through faith. This methodology demonstrated sovereignty: God gives understanding to whom He wills (v. 11).

Historical Context

This statement concludes the public portion of Jesus's parable discourse in Matthew 13, delivered from a boat near Capernaum around AD 30. After this, Jesus privately explained the parables to His disciples indoors (v. 36), showing a distinction between public and private teaching.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. Why would God intentionally veil truth in parabolic form rather than speak with complete transparency?
2. How does Jesus's parable method challenge modern expectations for 'seeker-sensitive' communication?
3. What spiritual preparation is necessary to 'hear' parables rightly rather than merely hearing words?

Interlinear Text

Ταῦτα	πάντα	ἐλάλει	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	ἐν	παραβολῇς	τοῖς
these things	All	spake	G3588	Jesus	in	a parable	G3588
G5023	G3956	G2980		G2424	G1722	G3850	
ὄχλοις	καὶ	χωρὶς	παραβολῇς	οὐκ	ἐλάλει	αὐτοῖς	
unto the multitude	and	without	a parable	not	spake	unto them	
G3793	G2532	G5565	G3850	G3756	G2980	G846	

Additional Cross-References

John 16:25 (Parallel theme): These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father.

Matthew 13:13 (Parallel theme): Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.