

STORIES WITH A PURPOSE

Life Stories – Part 1

April 26, 2009

PARABLE OF THE PENCIL



- A pencil must be _____
- A pencil must be _____

Jesus uses parables to give us great ideas in ways we can understand.

FOUR FUNCTIONS OF PARABLES...

1. They help to _____ lessons.

Matthew 13:10 (NIV) “The disciples came to Him and asked, ‘Why do you speak to the people in parables?’ ”

2. They help to _____ truth.

Parable literally means “*putting things side by side*”

Jesus told fictional stories that ran parallel to some truth in the kingdom. Life on earth runs parallel to the spiritual realm.

Matthew 13:11 (NIV) “He replied, ‘The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you...’ ”

Only those who are _____ about living for Christ will come to understand the parables!

3. They help to _____ conflict.

Matthew 13:11 (NIV) “He replied, ‘The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, **but not to them.** ’ ”

Matthew 13:12 (NIV) “Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.”

4. They help to _____ prophecy.

Matthew 13:14 (NIV) “In them (the parables) is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: ‘You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.’ ”

Matthew 13:15a (NIV) “For this people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes.”

Matthew 13:15b (NIV) “Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.”

Matthew 13:34-35 (NIV) “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.’ ”

The _____ of God is the common _____ upon which each parable explores and expands!

Matthew 13:9 (NIV) “He who has ears, let him hear.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (MSG) “Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God’s way. ¹⁷ Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us.”

For God’s kingdom to come... His will must be done through you who are His followers in this generation.

**AAA = Anything, Anytime, Anywhere...
for His Kingdom purposes.**