

THE PARABLES AS THE SCHOOL OF CHRIST

CHRIST'S
CHARACTERISTIC
WAY OF TEACHING

"ALL THESE THINGS JESUS SPOKE TO THE CROWDS IN PARABLES, AND WITHOUT PARABLES HE DID NOT SPEAK TO THEM; THAT WHAT WAS SPOKEN THROUGH THE PROPHET MIGHT BE FULFILLED, 'I WILL OPEN MY MOUTH IN PARABLES, I WILL UTTER THINGS HIDDEN SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD'" MATTHEW 13:34-35.
"BUT WITHOUT A PARABLE HE DID NOT SPEAK TO THEM. BUT PRIVATELY HE EXPLAINED ALL THINGS TO HIS DISCIPLES" MARK 4:34.

WHY CHRIST
USED PARABLES

TEXT: "THE DISCIPLES CAME UP AND SAID TO HIM, 'WHY DO YOU SPEAK TO THEM IN PARABLES?' AND HE ANSWERED AND SAID, 'TO YOU IT IS GIVEN TO KNOW THE MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN, BUT TO THEM IT IS NOT GIVEN'" MATTHEW 13:10-11.

EXPLANATION: ① MYSTERY OF SELECTIVE PROVIDENCE, ② EACH PERSON GRASPS AS MUCH AS HE CAN, ③ NEED FOR TEACHERS IN THE CHURCH TO EXPLAIN THE PARABLES

HOW CHRIST
TAUGHT IN
PARABLES

VALUE
OF PARABLES

- ① EVERYONE CAN LEARN SOMETHING FROM EACH PARABLE
- ② TRUTHS OF REVELATION THUS COMMUNICATED BY CHRIST WHO SAW INTUITIVELY WHAT HE WAS TEACHING
- ③ NOT SUBJECT TO SPECULATIVE MISINTERPRETATION
- ④ NOT EXPRESSED IN VAGUE OR AMBIGUOUS ABSTRACTIONS
- ⑤ SUSCEPTIBLE OF INFINITE PENETRATION OF MEANING
- ⑥ CORRESPOND TO OUR PRIMARY WAY OF LEARNING, FROM ACTUAL, SENSE EXPERIENCE
- ⑦ PROVIDE FOR THE ROLE OF THE H. SPIRIT TO OPEN UP THE MEANING AND APPLICATION OF THE REVEALED TRUTH
- ⑧ PROVIDE FOR THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH TO GIVE THE AUTHENTIC INTERPRETATION
- ⑨ PROVIDE FOR THE ROLE OF EACH BELIEVER TO DERIVE AS MUCH WEALTH OF MEANING AS HIS HUMILITY, SINLESSNESS, DOCILITY AND GENEROSITY ALLOWS GOD TO CONFER

IMPLICATIONS FOR
THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

1. THE PARABLES ARE MEANT FOR ALL TIME
2. THE PARABLES ARE OUR PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF CHRIST'S TEACHING
3. THE PARABLES ARE TO BE A MAIN SOURCE OF MEDITATION
4. THE PARABLES CALL FOR

- ① PRAYER IN ORDER TO GRASP THEIR MEANING
- ② PRACTICE, IN LIVING OUT THE PARABLES SO AS TO GROW IN OUR VIRTUE OF FAITH
- ③ DOCILITY, IN OBEDIENCE TO THE CHURCH'S MAJESTY, EXPLAINING THE PARABLES
- ④ SANCTITY, IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE CLARITY OF VISION GIVEN TO THE PURE OF HEART
- ⑤ STUDY, IN THE CHURCH'S SAINTS AND SCHOLARS, TO BENEFIT FROM THEIR INSIGHTS

5. THE PARABLES ARE THE MODEL FOR TEACHING THE FAITH

- ① LIKE CHRIST, USING HIS PARABLES TO COMMUNICATE HIS TRUTH
- ② LIKE CHRIST, EXPLAINING THE MYSTERIES OF FAITH FROM REAL LIFE
- ③ LIKE CHRIST, DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN "THE MULTITUDES" AND "THE DISCIPLES"