

# The Purpose of

# Jesus'

P A R A B L E S

Luke 8:4-15

Speaker:  
A/P Lai Keet Keong

Why did Jesus speak in parables?

What is the purpose of Jesus' parables?

Why did Jesus speak in parables?

What is the purpose of Jesus' parables?

Application from the Parable of the Sower  
(Luke 8:4-15)

# Why Jesus spoke in parables

## Two main ideas:

1. Common use of parables to illustrate a message

## Parable of the lost sheep



## Parable of the weeds





Following JESUS  
THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

# Why Jesus spoke in parables



## Two main ideas:

1. Common use of parables to illustrate the message
2. Use of parables to conceal the message

## Luke 8:10

<sup>10</sup> He said, “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, **but to others I speak in parables, so that,** “though seeing, they may not see; though hearing, they may not understand.’



## **Matt 13:34**

Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; **He did not say anything to them without using a parable.** 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.”

## Luke 8:4-15



<sup>4</sup> While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: <sup>5</sup> “A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. <sup>6</sup> Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants.

## Luke 8:4-15

<sup>8</sup> Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.”

<sup>9</sup> His disciples asked him what this parable meant.

<sup>10</sup> He said, “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that, “‘though seeing, they may not see; though hearing, they may not understand.’”

## Luke 8:4-15



<sup>11</sup> “This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. <sup>12</sup> Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.

<sup>13</sup> Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away.

## **Luke 8:4-15**

**14** The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.

**15** But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.



# THE FOUR SOILS

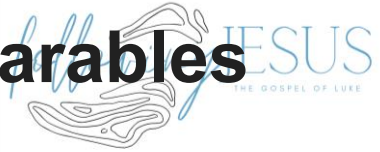
**Readied  
Hearts**

**Hardened  
Hearts**

**Shallow  
Hearts**

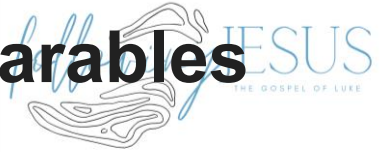
**Cluttered  
Hearts**

# The reason for Jesus' shift to speaking in parables



- a. Opposition by Pharisees & teachers of the law

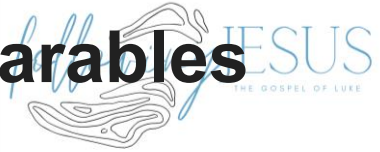
# The reason for Jesus' shift to speaking in parables



- a. Opposition by Pharisees & teachers of the law
  - Jesus accused of blasphemy



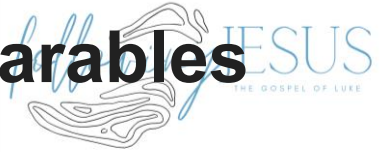
# The reason for Jesus' shift to speaking in parables



## a. Opposition by Pharisees & teachers of the law

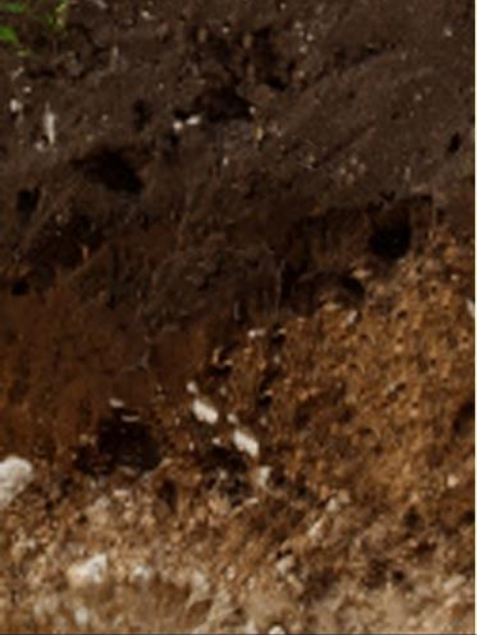
- Jesus accused of blasphemy
- Confronted for eating and fellowshiping with sinners

# The reason for Jesus' shift to speaking in parables



## a. Opposition by Pharisees & teachers of the law

- Jesus accused of blasphemy
- Confronted for eating and fellowshiping with sinners
- Confronted for not fasting



# THE FOUR SOILS



Hardened  
Hearts

# The reason for Jesus' shift to speaking in parables



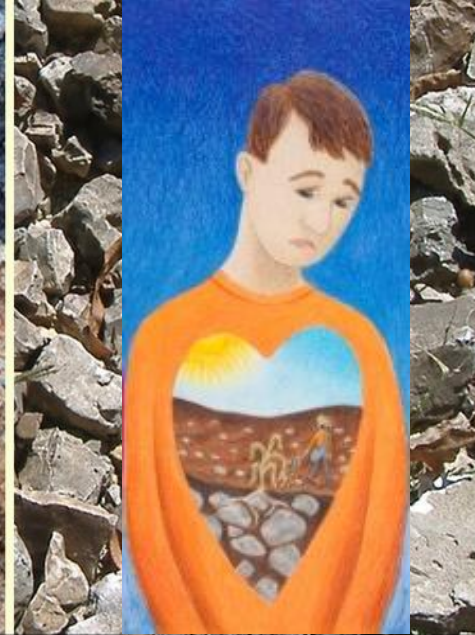
- a. Opposition by Pharisees & teachers of the law
- b. Rejection by the crowd

## Luke 7:31-34

31 “To what, then, can I compare the people of **this generation**? What are they like? 32 They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling out to each other: “We played the pipe for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not cry.’ 33 For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’”

## **Luke 7:31-34**

34 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.'



# THE FOUR SOILS



Hardened  
Hearts

Shallow  
Hearts

Cluttered  
Hearts

# The reason for Jesus' shift to speaking in parables



- a. Opposition by Pharisees & teachers of the law
- b. Rejection by the crowd



“Parables make the things of God more plain and easy to those willing to be taught, and at the same time more difficult and obscure to those who are wilfully ignorant.”

~ Matthew Henry

# Parable of the Sower



# The Purpose of Jesus' parables

## Hosea 10:12

Sow righteousness for yourselves, reap  
the fruit of unfailing love, and break up  
your **unplowed ground**;

# The Purpose of Jesus' parables

## Hosea 10:12

Sow righteousness for yourselves, reap  
the fruit of unfailing love, and break up  
your **unplowed ground**;

## Jeremiah 4:3

This is what the LORD says to the  
people of Judah and to Jerusalem:  
“Break up your **unplowed ground** and  
do not **sow among thorns.**”

# The Purpose of Jesus' parables

**Luke 7:8**

“Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

# The Purpose of Jesus' parables

## Luke 7:8

“Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

## Isaiah 6:9

He said, “Go and tell this people: “Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving.’”

# The Purpose of Jesus' parables

**Luke 7:8**

“Whoever has ears to hear, let them **hear.**”

**‘Shema’ = Hear**

# The Purpose of Jesus' parables

## Deut 6:4-5

<sup>4</sup> **Hear**, O Israel: The LORD our God,  
the LORD is one.

<sup>5</sup> Love the LORD your God with all your  
heart and with all your soul and with all  
your strength.



# The Purpose of Jesus' parables



“Sorry isn’t enough.  
Sometimes, you actually  
have to change.”

# The Purpose of Jesus' parables

**Luke 7:8**

“Whoever has ears to hear, let them **hear.**”

***‘Shema’* = Hear & Obey**

# The Purpose of Jesus' parables



The **degree** of our  
**readiness to obey**  
determines how much  
**we understand** what God  
is **really saying** to us.

# The Purpose of Jesus' parables

**Luke 8:11**

The seed is the word of God.

**Matthew 13:19**

The message about the kingdom.

A scenic view of a mountain valley seen through a cave opening. The scene is bathed in a warm, golden light, likely from a low sun or moon. The mountains are covered in dense evergreen forests. The text "THE KINGDOM OF GOD" is overlaid in the center, with "KINGDOM" in a larger, bold font and underlined.

THE **KINGDOM** OF GOD

# Personal Reflection

a. What is my heart's disposition?



## Personal Reflection

- a. What is my heart's disposition?
- b. How do I nurture an obedient heart?

# Personal Reflection

- a. What is my heart's disposition?
- b. How do I nurture an obedient heart?
  - i. Check your heart by asking the Holy Spirit to search your thoughts and heart.



# Personal Reflection

## **Psalms 139**

<sup>23</sup> Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. <sup>24</sup> See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

# Personal Reflection

- a. What is my heart's disposition?
- b. How do I nurture an obedient heart?
  - i. Check your heart by asking the Holy Spirit to search our thoughts and hearts.
  - ii. Do not just focus on what you do not understand. Focus on what God is saying to you.

# Personal Reflection



## Proverbs 25:2

It is the glory of God to conceal a matter,  
to search out a matter is the glory of kings.

# Personal Reflection

## Proverbs 25:2

It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, to search out a matter is the glory of kings.

## James 1:22

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

# Personal Reflection

- a. What is my heart's disposition?
- b. How do I nurture an obedient heart?
  - i. Check your heart by asking the Holy Spirit to search our thoughts and hearts.
  - ii. Do not just focus on what you do not understand. Focus on what God is saying to you.
  - iii. Be willing to obey what you hear.