A young green plant with several leaves is the central focus, growing in a field. The background is a soft, golden sunset sky with some clouds. In the foreground, there are larger, darker green plants, some of which are out of focus. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

Why Do You Speak To Them In Parables?

An Introduction To The Parables

What Is A Parable?

- The word parable comes from two Greek roots: *para* (“beside”) and *ballo* (“throw”). Literally, it means “to place alongside.”
- “An earthly story with a heavenly meaning”
- “The symbolism in Jesus’ parables is never thickly layered, and rarely even multidimensional. In most cases, the parables make one simple point.” (John MacArthur, Commentary on Matthew, Logos Edition)

Categories of Parables?

- Parables of the coming kingdom, the church... Matt. 13:44; 20:1; 22:2
 - Parables of loss and redemption... Luke 15
 - Parables about prayer... Luke 18:1
 - Parables of forgiveness and compassion... Matt. 18:21-35; Luke 10:29-37
 - Parables of judgment on the nation of Israel... Luke 20:9-18
 - Parables of eschatology... Matthew 25
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- A young green plant with several leaves is growing in a field. The background is a soft, hazy landscape with a warm, golden light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall mood is peaceful and hopeful.


Characteristics of Parables?

1. They were short.
 2. They were vivid.
 3. They were earthy.
 4. They were heavenly
 5. They were wide-ranging.
 6. They were simple.
 7. They were structured.
 8. They were engaging.
 9. They were surprising.
 10. They were authoritative.
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Why Did Jesus Use Parables?

- To explain the kingdom and kingdom behavior to His disciples... Matt 13:11,24,31,33,34,45,47
- To conceal the truth from those whose hearts were dishonest and hard... Matt 13:11
- To fulfill prophecy... Matt 13:34–35 (Isa 6:9-10; Psa 78:2)
- To incite interest in the hearers... Mark 12:37
- To help people remember His teaching.
- To make a spiritual point.

How Are We To Interpret Parables?

- Parables usually have one primary lesson they teach... cf. Luke 15
 - Sometimes parables contain secondary lessons... cf. Matt 25:14-30; 13:1-9,18-23
 - Be careful not to press a parable too far.. Luke 10:34; 15:16
- 
- A young green plant with several leaves is growing in a field. The background is a soft, hazy landscape with trees and a bright sky, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall tone is warm and hopeful.

A painting of a field with a small green plant in the foreground. The background is a textured, brownish-green landscape with a path leading into the distance. The overall tone is somber and contemplative.

Emphasis on
HEARING!

Mark 4:9; Matt 13:9; Luke 8:8

How Is Your Hearing?