

Listen! The Key to the Parables
Matthew 13:1-17

I. Why did Jesus use parables?

- A. Jesus used parables to fulfill prophecy (vv.14-17, 35).
- B. Jesus used parables to make known new truths to interested hearers and to conceal truth from disinterested hearers (vv.9-15; Mark 4:13).

II. How can we cultivate the habit of fruitful listening?

- A. Approach your Bible study with humility (James 1:21; Proverbs 3:5-7; Hebrews 12:7-12).
- B. Develop a habit of note-taking and participate in spiritual conversations (Acts 17:11).

III. How should we interpret the parables of Jesus?

- A. Seek to understand the story's natural meaning.
- B. Seek to understand the occasion that prompted the parable.
- C. Seek the main point of the parable.
- D. Seek to understand how the evangelist interpreted the parable.