

# “THE SUBVERSIVE STORIES OF JESUS”

Matthew 13:1-3; 10-17

**Main Idea:** Jesus taught in parables so that those who were receptive could learn more about the kingdom, and those who were unreceptive would know nothing at all.

## **Introduction to the Parabolic Discourse**

To test the responsiveness of the crowd

To teach the disciples about kingdom advancement

## **The Setting for the Parabolic Discourse (1-3)**

The shift from Peter’s house to the edge of the lake

The inlet with a horseshoe shaped amphitheater

## **The Purpose for Speaking in Parables (10-15)**

To reveal and conceal the secrets of the kingdom (11)

To test the spiritual condition of hearts (12-15)

Those who have been receptive will be given more truth  
(12a)

Those who have been unreceptive will be void of any truth (12b-15)

They are those about whose hard hearts God prophesies

Their hearts will be irreparably hardened

## **The Blessing of Those Who Are Spiritually Receptive (16-17)**

They have eyes to see and ears to hear (16)

They are a privileged generation (17)

# Family Life Groups

## “The Subversive Stories of Jesus”

Matthew 13:1-3; 10-17

**Main Idea:** Jesus taught in parables so that those who were receptive could learn more about the kingdom, and those who were unreceptive would know nothing at all.

- 1) What does it reveal about God that He would give the gift of understanding to some people and withhold it from others (13:11)? How does it make you feel about Him? Does it affect the way you pray for those who do not yet believe?
  
- 2) What causes hard-heartedness in a person? Is there any way to overcome hard-heartedness? Think of some examples of people you know who used to be hard-hearted about God and Jesus, and now are His disciples. What does this reveal about God?

Questions? Contact Pastor Stan at [stan@ebcsalem.com](mailto:stan@ebcsalem.com).