

# Mystery of Heaven

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## I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Matthew 13:1-17.
- B. In 70 AD, Jerusalem was destroyed with no stone left unturned as Jesus predicted.
- C. Matthew contains a well-known predictive passage about the future of the world and the church.
- D. Matthew 13 contains the great principle of history between Jesus two comings.
- E. Great crowds gathered around Jesus because of the power of His words and works.
- F. This is the first time as far as we can tell that Jesus ever spoke in parables, and He introduces many new things.
- G. The great principle by which God acts to determine human events is declared in Jesus' explanation of His use of parables.

## II. The question of the disciples, and the Lord's answer.

- A. The disciples were perplexed at the Lord's curious approach.
- B. The answer must have pleased them greatly because the answer was given to them alone.
- C. A mystery is a truth that could never be discovered by the exercise of human intelligence.
  - 1. This is why man's wisdom is never enough.
  - 2. We will never satisfy human life on the things we know.
  - 3. Only God can reveal to us a mystery.
- D. The disciples must have been full of pride to know that they were chosen to know the mysteries, but their balloon is pricked immediately—to the one who has, this one will be given more; but to him who has not, and even what he has will be taken away.
  - 1. This is the great principle of life.
  - 2. It means that truth not acted upon will be lost.

## III. The central principle of history: the importance of acting upon truth.

- A. Jesus saw in the disciples a willingness to act upon truth—therefore, it was for them to know the secrets.

B. Power is removed when empires fail to act upon truth that they know.

IV. The illustration in Israel.

A. The Lord's speaking in parables signaled the taking away of truth from a people who did not act upon it.

B. Isaiah predicted that the Jews understood what Jesus had to bring, so the truth had to be veiled because of their disobedience.

V. The unique privilege of the disciples and us in hearing these things.

A. If you are ready to act on truth you can get more.

B. Jesus is the ultimate revelation of truth, so all the more we should adhere to Him.

C. When God gives us something we must be prepared to act on it.

**Application questions:**

1. What is the great principle of history, and how did the Jews demonstrate this negatively?

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2. What truth have you been given that you have failed to act upon appropriately? Where do you stand with regard to purity? Evangelism? Service? Forgiving others?

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3. What steps can you take to act in accord with the knowledge that you have been given by God?

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