

# **The Dimming of the Light**

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Mark 4:1-33.

B. Jesus was not primarily interested in healing bodies—He wanted to preach and teach them spiritual truths.

## II. Why Jesus turned to parables.

A. One class of hearers has been given the secrets of God (the disciples).

1. Mysteries are those things that are secret to most people.
2. Paul considered Christians stewards of the mysteries of God.
3. The mysteries are inside information on life—there are certain pieces to the puzzle that only God can reveal. (I Corinthians 1)
5. There is the secret of lawlessness and the secret of godliness that is its counterpart—God reveals the key to handle everything that comes.
6. The mystery of the kingdom is how God functions in human society.

B. Those outside are those who are not disciples.

1. The truth is hidden to them.
2. The parables will not mean anything to them.
3. The reason is so that they may not understand according to Isaiah. Jesus is speaking about the fulfillment of a prophesy here.
4. The people did not want to be healed spiritually.

## III. Three principles of interpretation for parables.

A. Hiding truth a little bit makes it easier to see.

1. Men could never see the grace and glory of God unless it was hidden in a parable.
2. Parables are ways of putting truth that a person will not forget.

B. Searching will discover more than expected.

C. If you do not use what you have, you will lose it.

D. God only shows a person what he can handle.

**Application questions:**

1. What kind of mysteries did Jesus reveal through parables?

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2. Why is it sometimes important to communicate to a person through story?

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3. Which principle of interpretation stood out to you? Explain.

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