

Parables

Question:

During Jesus' ministry, He often spoke in parables. What is a parable?

Our Answer:

The word "parable" comes from the Greek word "parabole" and means "likeness." It is derived from the Greek verb "paraballo" ("para," "beside," and "ballo," "to cast"). A parable is a comparison of two objects for the purpose of teaching. Although Jesus did not invent speaking in parables, it is significant that He is the only one who used them in the New Testament. At one time in His ministry, it was the only method He used when speaking to masses. (Mt. 13:34; Mk. 4:33-34; see also: Ps 78:2)

Jesus was once asked by His disciples why He spoke in parables (Mt. 13:10). He answered them by revealing that He did so to hide the meaning of His words from some who would hear them.

Because it is given to you to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven, but to them it has not been given. (Mt. 13:11-15).