

JESUS CHRIST TAUGHT US THROUGH

# PARABLES AND MIRACLES

*And He went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the Kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people. So His fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought Him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and He healed them. And great crowd followed Him...*

—Matthew 4:23-25



## PARABLES

Jesus was fond of teaching in **parables** — stories which held the hearer's interest while challenging him to make a suitable response. Over thirty parables have been recorded in the gospels.

In His parables, Jesus used the realities of daily life to **reveal the mystery of the reign of God**. The incredulous and indifferent never discover "the meaning behind the parables."

- **NOT EVERYONE WAS OPEN TO THE MESSAGE OF THE PARABLES.**  
*To you it has been given to know the secrets of the Kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand (Luke 8:10).*
- **SOME PARABLES DEAL WITH THE KINGDOM OF GOD...**  
*The Kingdom of God is like a grain of mustard seed which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches... (Mark 4:31-32).*
- **...WHILE OTHERS CHALLENGE OUR ATTITUDES...**  
*But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market places and calling to their playmates, "We piped to you, and you did not dance; we wailed and you did not mourn" (Matthew 11:16-17.)*
- **...AND EXPRESS GOD'S LOVE FOR HIS PEOPLE.**  
*What man of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him (Matthew 7:9-11).*

## MIRACLES

**A miracle is a sign or a wonder, a revelation of Jesus Christ's divine love and power.** Jesus did not perform miracles in order to amaze the crowds or to prove that He was God. Rather, **His miracles reveal God's love and compassion.** The Creator of all could not bear to see His creation suffer, and Jesus' miracles manifest His desire to reunite man with God.

- **JESUS IS THE POWER OF GOD...**  
*Christ (is) the power of God and the wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 1:24).*
- **...WHO MANIFESTED HIS POWER IN THE WORLD OF NATURE...**  
*Jesus feeds over five thousand with a few loaves of bread and fish (Matthew 15:32-39).*
- **...AND IN MIRACLES OF HEALING.**  
*And behold a leper came to Him and knelt before Him, saying, "Lord if Thou wilt, Thou can make me clean." And Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed (Matthew 8:2-3).*
- **JESUS ALSO REVEALED HIS POWER OVER DEMONS...**  
*Jesus rebuked (the demon), saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm... (Luke 4:35).*
- **...AND EVEN OVER DEATH ITSELF.**  
*And when the Lord saw (the widow whose only son had just died), He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." And He came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise!" And the dead man sat up, and began to speak (Luke 7:13-15).*