

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN F E L L O W S H I P

Down & Dirty in The Kingdom
Matthew 13:1-23

Jesus was consistently **Unpredictable** –

- In what **He said**
- In what **He did**
- In who **He chose as friends**

He was continuously **Consistent** –

- In **His message**
- In **His scriptural foundation**

He was consistently **Relatable** –

- In His **Real-life stories**
- In His **common man lifestyle**

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Vs. 1 – “Later that same day” (The scene in the house)

Vs. 2 – now He speaks **to everyone**

“Listen!”

EVERYTHING depends on that

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Vs. 4 – 8

Everyone there could see that real-life scene

Vs. 9 – ANYONE

So... **do we?** (Have ears)

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Vs. 10 – You know it’s not real clear what You’re talking about. Why do you do that?

Vs. 11-13, He replied, “**You are permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven, but others are not.** To **those who listen** to my teaching, more understanding will be given, and they will have an abundance of knowledge. But for **those who are not listening**, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them. **That is why I use these parables,**

For they look, but they don’t really see.

They hear, but they don’t really listen or understand.

Does that sound familiar? Like **bags of silver** & the **Coin of The Kingdom.**

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Why them?

Because He already promised those who want to know and care enough to Ask, Seek & Knock. (Matt. 5:9 & 7:7-11)

Why not others?

Because they don’t.

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Vs. 15 – He reveals His foundation and why they could have known already from the scripture

Vs. 16-17 – He reveals how blessed they & we are

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Vs. 18 – “Now listen”

He doesn't often repeat Himself, so **this is important!**

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Vs. 19 – They don't care enough to enquire beyond their lack of understanding.

Listen to people. **Do they ask questions to learn more** than they know already, or think they do?

The enemy is free to take what they've been given. They don't even notice.

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Vs. 20-21 – Roots grow in **what is cultivated**

What do you hear people **talk about most?**

Their **problems** or the things of **God's kingdom?**

Which do you think is growing the deepest roots?

For perspective read **Corrie ten Boom**

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Vs. 22 – Are we most **concerned about** the worries of **this life**, or confident of our **eternal life in Christ Jesus?**

Again – what do people speak most often and passionately about?

Current **political and economic** concerns or the **Hope of God's Kingdom?**

"Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."

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Vs. 23 – How do **we hear and understand** God's Word?

On Purpose, because we value it so highly... Enough to **ask, seek and knock.**

Where, when, how?

In **His Word**, in **prayer and meditation**, in **discussion**

Whenever we **make time** and/or **take the opportunity**

With each other (Life Group, Ministry Team, family & friends)

God hasn't called a John the Baptist since John the Baptist

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He has invested much in us

He expects us to **cultivate it and spread it around**

So, listen... and **Do**