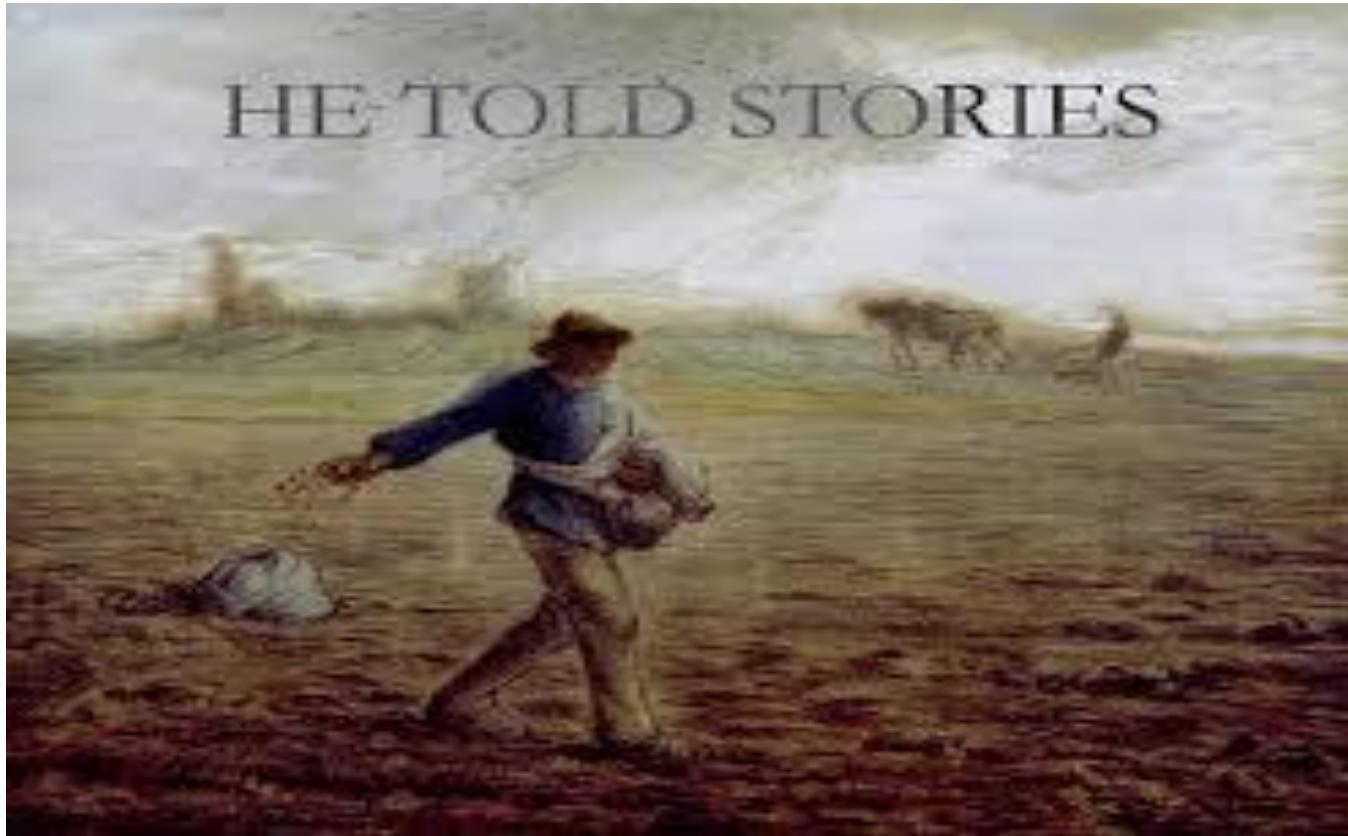


# THE PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM

Matt 13:1-17

IMAGINE....



- And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"
- **What is the question the disciples are really asking?**
- **Jesus why don't you speak in a way that explains everything to the crowds?**

# WHAT IS A PARABLE?

- Seed, soil, sower, wheat, weeds, mustard seeds, leaven, flour, treasure, trees, fields, pearls, fish, nets, fishermen – **what do all of these have in common ?**
- 1. THEY ARE CONCRETE
- 2. A PART OF THE HEARERS EVERY DAY LIFE...
- Stories/songs/poems involving everyday life to teach
- THEY MAKE TRUTH CONCRETE – moves from the concrete to the abstract –
- Einstein's theory of education....

And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"

- Jesus answered them, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted. (Mat 13:11 NAU)
- Matt 13:12
- Mark 4:22-25

# Parables hide, in order to reveal...

- A parable is an utterance that does not carry its meaning on the surface, and which demands thought and perception if the hearer is to benefit from it (France:502)
- The hearer must be paying attention and enter into the story if they are going to understand.
- Parables are A TIME BOMB....

# If you have ears to hear, Listen!

## If you have ears pay attention!

- What is the difference between hearing and listening?
- The crowds are hearing but are they listening?
- We are hearing but are we listening...
- What disables us from listening?

**Never forget...our ears pick up the sounds but we hear with our heart –**

**Matt 13:15**

- **A fat heart...?**
- **Syncretism of Isaiah's audience...**
- **What has made the heart of the crowd Jesus has been ministering amongst fat/dull**



**If you have ears to hear, Listen!**

**If you have ears pay attention!**

- **A heart so full and satisfied by the life of the world deafens us, blinds us, disables us to be able to listen, receive and understand the Word of the Kingdom and return and be healed by the ministry of Jesus Christ the Son of God.**
- **Blessed are the poor in spirit...**
- **The mystery of the Kingdom is given**
- **And can be taken away.... Mark 4:24-25**