**BIBLE QUESTIONS: SESSION 36**

**Questions: *Why did Jesus teach in parables? How does this relate to election?***

1. ***Why did Jesus teach in parables?*** 
   1. So that faith is revealed and increased in those who hear, and unbelief in those who close their ears.
      1. Before He interpreted the parable of the sower, He drew His disciples away from the crowd. They 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. For whoever has, to him more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him. Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, ‘Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.’ But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it" ([Matthew 13:10-17](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt%2013.10-17)).
   2. Parables are also a way to use earthly illustrations to communicate something about heavenly realities that cannot be directly perceived. “The kingdom of God may be compared to…”. They are meant to save the elect and to harden the those who would resist the spirit.
2. **How does this relate to election?**
   1. God is the one who reveals mysteries, and he speaks in ways that invite all people to believe. Nevertheless, only the elect will believe and be saved. All others will close their ears towards the message, resist and reject it.
   2. Nevertheless, God desires all to be saved, and those who resist are to blame for their unbeliev
      1. E.g., Pharaoh. Begins by hardening his own heart against God’s message; then God hardens him, either by confirming him in his character, or else by deciding to continue to command him after knowing (making apparent) that it will harden him.