

A close-up photograph of a wheat field at sunset. The wheat stalks are in sharp focus in the foreground, with a soft, golden light from the setting sun illuminating the scene. The background shows a blurred horizon with rolling hills under a sky with light, wispy clouds.

MATTHEW

Kingdom Secrets

Matthew: Handbook for Discipleship

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Action

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Narrative
Action

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Action

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Narrative
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5-7

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Kingdom
Secrets
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Kingdom
Life
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23-25

Matthew: Handbook for Discipleship

The Authority of Jesus

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A close-up photograph of a wheat field during sunset. The wheat stalks are in sharp focus in the foreground, with a soft, golden light illuminating the scene. In the background, rolling hills are visible under a sky with scattered clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

MATTHEW

Kingdom Secrets

A close-up photograph of a wheat field at sunrise or sunset. The wheat stalks are golden-brown and in sharp focus in the foreground. The background shows a vast field stretching to the horizon under a bright, hazy sky. A faint rainbow is visible in the lower right quadrant. A semi-transparent dark grey rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing white text.

The challenge of kingdom secrets:



The challenge of kingdom secrets:

**Do we have eyes to
see and ears to hear?**

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Matthew 12:46-50

⁴⁶ While he was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him. ⁴⁸ But he replied to the man who told him, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?”

⁴⁹ And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! ⁵⁰ For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”

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MATTHEW *Kingdom Secrets*

Matthew 13:1-3

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables...





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The sower

(13:1-9, 18-23)

The weeds

(13:24-30, 36-43)

The mustard seed

The leaven
(13:31-33)

The hidden treasure

The pearl of great value

The net

(13:44-50)

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The Purpose
of Parables
(13:10-17)

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¹⁰ Then the disciples came and said to him, “Why do you speak to them in parables?”

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A close-up photograph of golden wheat stalks in a field. The sun is low in the sky, creating a warm, golden light and a soft rainbow in the lower right. The background shows a vast field of wheat stretching to the horizon under a blue sky with light clouds.

**Why does Jesus
speak in parables?**

A close-up photograph of golden wheat stalks in a field. The sun is high in the sky, creating a bright, hazy glow. A faint rainbow is visible in the lower right portion of the image. The text is overlaid on a dark, semi-transparent rectangular background.

**Jesus speaks in parables
to reveal and conceal**

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Matthew 13:10-12

¹⁰ Then the disciples came and said to him, **“Why do you speak to them in parables?”**

¹¹ And he answered them, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ¹² For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.

MATTHEW *Kingdom Secrets*

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Luke 8:18

¹⁸ Take care then how you hear, for to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away.

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Matthew 13:13-14

¹³ This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

¹⁴ Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says...

MATTHEW *Kingdom Secrets*

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Matthew 21:45-56

“⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.”

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Matthew 13:14-15

“ “ “You will indeed hear but never understand,
and you will indeed see but never perceive.”

¹⁵ For this people's heart has grown dull,

and with their ears they can barely hear,

and their eyes they have closed,

lest they should see with their eyes

and hear with their ears

and understand with their heart

and turn, and I would heal them.’

MATTHEW *Kingdom Secrets*

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Just as in Isaiah's time, the people of Israel were continuing to respond to God in the same pattern of rejection

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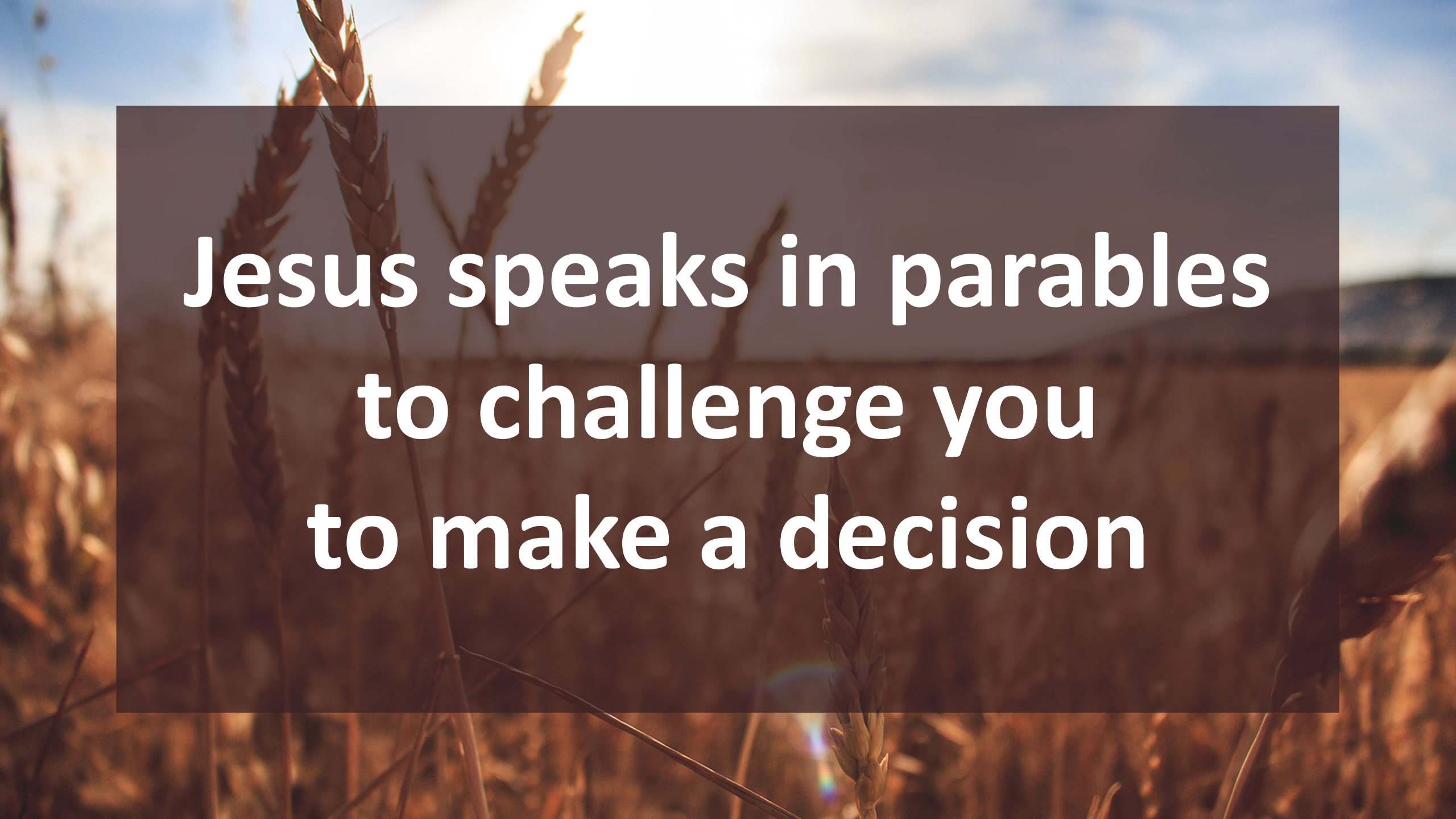
Matthew 13:16-17

¹⁶ But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. ¹⁷ For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

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A close-up photograph of golden wheat stalks in a field. The sun is low in the sky, creating a warm, golden light and a soft rainbow in the lower right. The background is a blurred field of wheat under a blue sky with light clouds.

**Jesus speaks in parables
to challenge you
to make a decision**



The challenge of Kingdom Secrets:

**Do we have eyes to
see and ears to hear?**

“The ultimately lost person is the person who cannot want God. Who cannot want God to be God. Multitudes of such people pass by every day, and pass into eternity. The reason they do not find God is that they do not want him or, at least, do not want him to be God. Wanting God to be God is very different from wanting God to help me...”

- Dallas Willard, *Renovation of the Heart*, 58-60.
Quoted in Wilkins, *Matthew*, NIVAC, 496-497.

... without this realization of our utter ruin and without the genuine revisioning and redirecting of our lives, which that bitter realization naturally gives rise to, no clear path to inner transformation can be found. It is psychologically and spiritually impossible. We will steadfastly remain on the throne of our universe, so far as we are concerned, perhaps trying to “use a little God” here and there.

- Dallas Willard, *Renovation of the Heart*, 58-60.
Quoted in Wilkins, Matthew, NIVAC, 496-497.

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