I. A **Parable** is a comparison,usually a short fictitious story that teaches a moral.

 A. A **simile** is a parable which uses (usually) **like** or **as** to compare two unlike things.

 B. The lessons of Matthew 13 use parables and similes to teach the secrets of the Kingdom of God, the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven.

 C. There are **Seven Parables in Matthew 13.**

 1. **The Parable of the Four Soils**, vv. 3-23, is one which He explains.

 a. Here Jesus is asked and He answered **why He teaches in Parables***.*

 b. Jesus’ explanation yields key secrets of comprehending spiritual truth.

 2. There are far more than four spiritual secrets.

a.***The Four Spiritual Secrets***are the four found in John 15, The

 Parable of the Vine and the Branches.

 3. **The Parable of the Weeds,** vv. 24-30, which Jesus also explains in vv. 33-43

 a. A **key component** of Jesus’ worldview is found here; note v. 39. 3. **The Parable of the Mustard Seed,** vv. 31-32

4. **The Parable of the Yeast,** v. 33

 5. **The Parable of the Hidden Treasure,** v. 44

 6. **The Parable of the Pearl Merchant,** vv. 45,46

 7. **The Parable of the Fishing Net,** vv. 47,48

II. At the end of this Sermon, Jesus does not offer an invitation; rather, He makes an inquiry.

 A. **The Great Inquiry** is, **“*Have you understood all these things*?”**

 B. Their naive reply, “Yes,” exposes other spiritual secrets.

 1. The secrets of the kingdom of heaven have to be given to us by Him. 13:11.

 2. Whoever has this gift of comprehension will be given more. 13:12

 3. Whoever does not grasp it, will not get more and what he has will be removed, taken away. 13:12

 4. We have not because we ask not or ask for the wrong reason; or just don’t want to know; and don’t want to change. (See James 4:2)

 5. The Disciples nor we make friends with God. He makes friends with us.

 a. Faith is a gift of God, lest any man should boast. See Ephesians 2

 b. Jesus asks us to do what they did, “Follow me.” Listen, look, try it.

 (1) Examine our spiritual habits. We are what we eat, n’est pas? 6. Jesus promises that if we respond to the light He gives, He’ll give us more.

 7. The effect will be continual, as new treasures are found in a storehouse.

 a. An illustration would be the discovery of pictures uncovered in clearing the house, opening drawers, going through the family tree or estate.

 b. This is what listening to God and His word are meant to resemble.

 c. Is our contemplation yielding this amazement and wonderful grasp of who He is, what He’s like, what He expects, where He is, what He’s teaching me?

 C. These exhortations warrant a brief Greek word study of the verb, **understand.**

1. The Greek word is, ***suniemi***. Easy to remember; rhymes with *tsunami.*

 a. Might we add, we’ll have a tsunami if we don’t have a suniemi!

 2. **Suniemi** from the **Greek Lexicon:** as a **verb, noun,** and **adjective.**

 a. To send together, to understand, to comprehend thoroughly

 b. To perceive clearly

 c. To be well-judging, sensible

 d. To be spiritually intelligent

 e. Noun: A sending together, a junction as of streams.

 f. Noun: Discernment, sagaciousness, intellect, mind. g Adjective: Intelligent, discerning, sagacious, wise, prudent.

2. A Parable was recently offered and was presented to the whole world.

 A. A picture was painted.

 B. Nothing like it has ever occurred in the history of the world.

 C. Do we see the picture for what it is?

D. Do we hear the message and recognize the opportunity we have to receive our own message of redemption, rescue, sacrifice, selfishness, joy of salvation, and to convey this Good News to the lost, the trapped, the hopeless of this world with the selfless love so clearly portrayed recently?

3. “Come, let us reason, saith the Lord.”

CHORUSES: **Come, Let Us Reason; In This Quiet Moment; Open My Eyes Lord**

1. “Come, let us reason, together,” that’s what God says.

 “Come, let us reason, together,” says the Lord.

 “Come, let us reason together,” that’s what God says.

 “Come, let us reason together, says the Lord.

 “Tho’ your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow;

 “Tho’ they be red as crimson, they shall be as wool.”

 “Come, let us reason, together,” that’s what God says.

 “Come, let us reason, together,” says the Lord.

2. In this quiet moment, Jesus, speak to me.

 Fill my heart with your love divine, Your power let me see.

 In this quiet moment, Jesus, speak to us.

 Fill our hearts with your light and love, Your power let us see.

3. Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,

 to reach out and touch Him and say that we love Him.

 Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen,

 Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.