**I SPEAK IN PARABLES**  
*Luke 8:10*

**MAIN THOUGHT** The parables of Jesus were like a strainer to keep the pearls from the swine who would trample it in the mud (Matt. 7:6) yet reveal truth to those with childlike faith.

**INTRODUCTION**

- **PARA** (gk–para=along side; parallel) and **BLE** (gk–bole=to throw) is a story moving from a known (concrete) to an unknown (abstract) – an elongated simile or metaphor.
- They were used in the OT (Psa. 78:2; Prov. 1:6; Ezek. 20:49; Hos. 12:10), by Rabbis (Hillel – 30 BC - AD 10), but none as prolific as Jesus (40 recorded).
- Matthew (black and white – just the facts) and Luke (color – vivid details) contain most of the parables; Mark has but six and John records none.
- The purpose was TO HIDE the truth from self-righteous and TO REVEAL truth to those with childlike faith (Matt. 11:25-26; 13:10-15).

**THAT FIRST PARABLE DAY** (Matt. 12:1-32).

**THE SABBATH** (1-12).
- After two years of ministry, Jesus spoke only in parables publically. This abrupt change in style pronounced judgment on the Pharisees.
- That first day was filled with PUBLIC CONFLICT centering on the SABBATH – the main symbol of their legal system. The 7th day of rest was meant to be a DELIGHT (Isa. 58:13) to the weary but had become a burden (Matt. 23:4).
- Jesus, the LORD OF THE SABBATH (Matt. 12:8), and his disciples violated the Pharisees’ interpretation of it by picking grain to eat.

- Jesus then entered a synagogue and healed the shriveled hand of a man along with many more that day. Again, this violated the Pharisees’ rules.
- The Pharisees, in attendance, privately huddled and made their decision – KILL JESUS (14)!

**THE UNPARDONABLE SIN** (22-32).
- To test Jesus, they brought him a demon-possessed blind and mute man. Jesus healed him too. The people were astonished and started to believe he was the Messiah (Isa. 35:5).
- During that huddle, they had predetermined their strategy – attribute his power to heal to BEELZEBUB (LORD OF FLIES – Judg. 1:8), the prince of demons. This was another name for Satan.
- It was official – they chose their position and power over Jesus (John 11:48).
- At this, Jesus pronounced upon them THE unpardonable sin – rejecting Jesus. God can and will forgive any sin except rejecting his Son Jesus.
- This is the same day (Matt. 13:1-3) that Jesus began to speak in PARABLES.