

A reading from Matthew, Jeremiah, and Psalms

Matthew 13:10-16

The Purpose of the Parables

¹⁰ Then the disciples came and asked him, 'Why do you speak to them in parables?' ¹¹ He answered, 'To you it has been given to know the secrets^a of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ¹² For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ¹³ The reason I speak to them in parables is that "seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand." ¹⁴ With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says:

"You will indeed listen, but never understand,
and you will indeed look, but never perceive.

¹⁵ For this people's heart has grown dull,
and their ears are hard of hearing,
and they have shut their eyes;
so that they might not look with their eyes,
and listen with their ears,
and understand with their heart and turn—
and I would heal them."

¹⁶ But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear.

Jeremiah 6:16

¹⁶ Thus says the LORD:

Stand at the crossroads, and look,
and ask for the ancient paths,
where the good way lies; and walk in it,
and find rest for your souls.

But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'

Psalm 119:105

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.

Matthew 19:13-15

Jesus Blesses Little Children

¹³ Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; ¹⁴ but Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.' ¹⁵ And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

"The Word of God for the people of God, thanks be to God." OR "Here ends the reading."