

The Simplicity of the Gospel

“And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these parables, he departed thence.” (Matthew 13:53)

Many people think that it is necessary to dumb down or alter the gospel message so that it is easier to understand or more palatable to their audience. Jesus did not do this.

In fact, Jesus taught in parables so that the multitude would *not* understand.¹ Only those who drew closer to Jesus, and asked Him about His teachings, were able to understand His teachings. This teaches us that discipleship takes work. A God Who can be understood in after a few Bible classes is not a God worthy of our worship. We must be continually learning about Him.

The Apostle Paul confirmed that true discipleship is often a struggle:

“And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch, Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.” (Acts 14:20-21)

This is very similar to what Jesus said in Luke’s gospel record:

“The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.” (Luke 16:16)

We are not to purposefully confuse the audience but we should not change the message either. We do not need to mix in the traditions and doctrines of men in order to gain members. We are not gaining true disciples when we do that. If the simplicity of the gospel message is not what they have a thirst for, then we have nothing to offer them.

¹ Matthew 13:11