



Why Parables?

Matt 13:10-17; Mark 4:33; Luke 8:18

Four Voices, One
Story

A HARMONY OF THE GOSPELS

Step 1



Scan QR Code or Go To:
<https://attend.wordly.ai/join/UUCZ-2933>

Step 2

A screenshot of the Wordly web interface. At the top left is the Wordly logo (a blue speech bubble with 'W' and the word 'wordly' in blue). Below it, in red, is the text 'AI-POWERED INTERPRETATION'. There are two input fields: 'Choose language *' with a dropdown menu showing 'English (US)', and 'Enter Session ID *' with a text input field. Below these is a 'More options' link with a question mark icon. At the bottom center is a blue button labeled 'Attend'.

Choose Language
Click Attend



Step 3



Read Captions on Device
Use Headset for Audio

The Word Without Borders



For Next Week:

Matthew 13:1-17

Mark 4:2-9

Luke 8:5-8

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the
branch
Calvary Chapel

CALL TO THE WORD

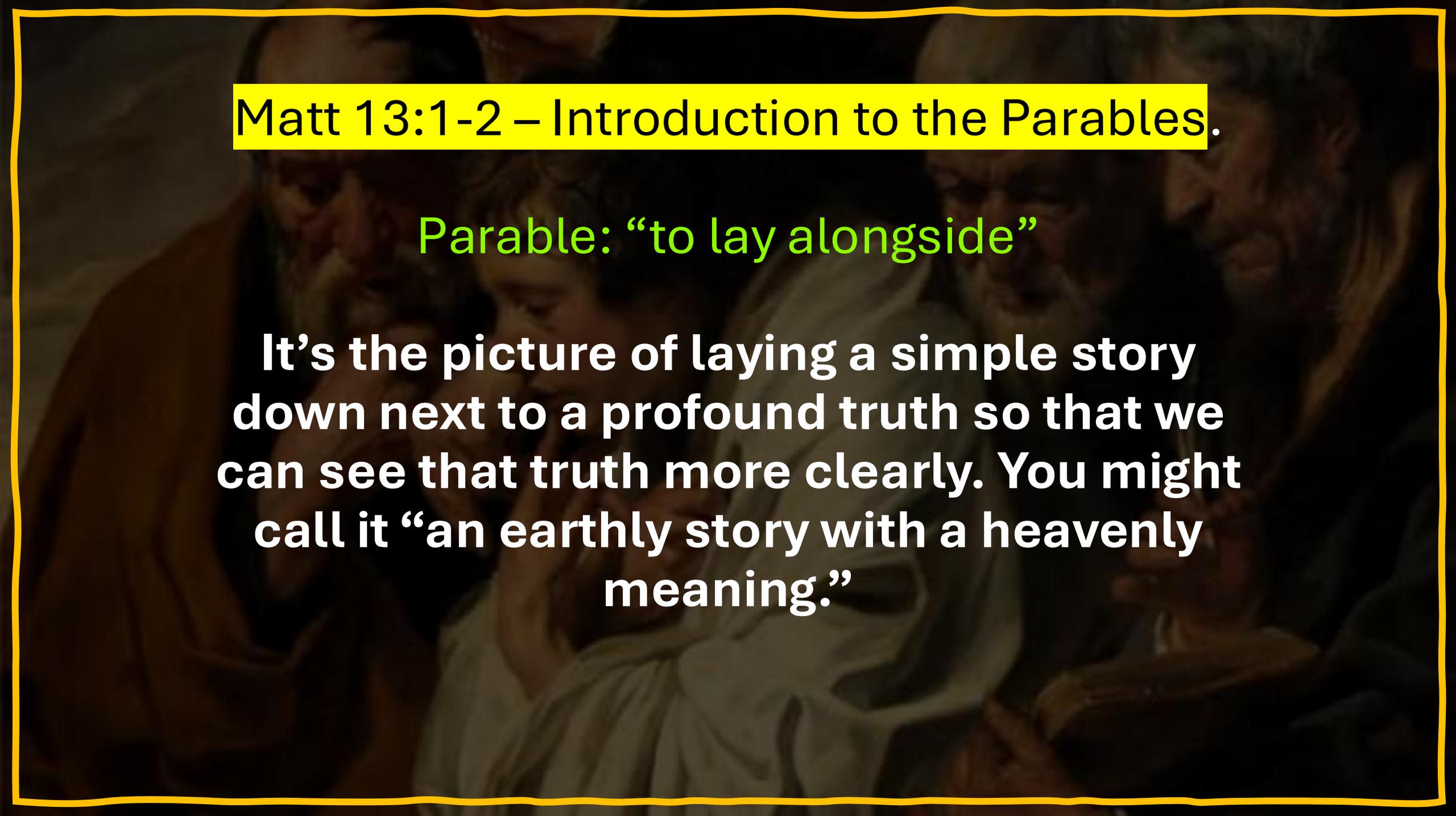
Matthew 13:1-17 (NKJV)



Intro

Stories have a way of sticking with us and sneaking past our defenses. The parables both reveal and conceal truth — so it matters that our hearts stay open to receive.





Matt 13:1-2 – Introduction to the Parables.

Parable: “to lay alongside”

It’s the picture of laying a simple story down next to a profound truth so that we can see that truth more clearly. You might call it “an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.”

The Purpose of Parables (vv. 11–13)

Understanding is not earned; it's a gift. to those who hunger for truth, God gives more truth.

“So pay attention to how you hear. To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are not listening, even what they think they understand will be taken away from them...

(Luke 8:18 NLT)

The Purpose of Parables (vv. 11–13)

First purpose for teaching in parables was to **reveal truth**, but the secondary purpose for Jesus to begin teaching in parables was to **conceal truth**.

V11: “To them it has not been given.”

They had light but preferred darkness. So parables became an act of judgment... because they confirmed the blindness people had chosen.

John 10:24-25

The Purpose of Parables (vv. 11–13)

But they also were **an act of mercy** because hearing more truth would only deepen their condemnation.

Matt 10:15, 11:21-24

Luke 12:47-48

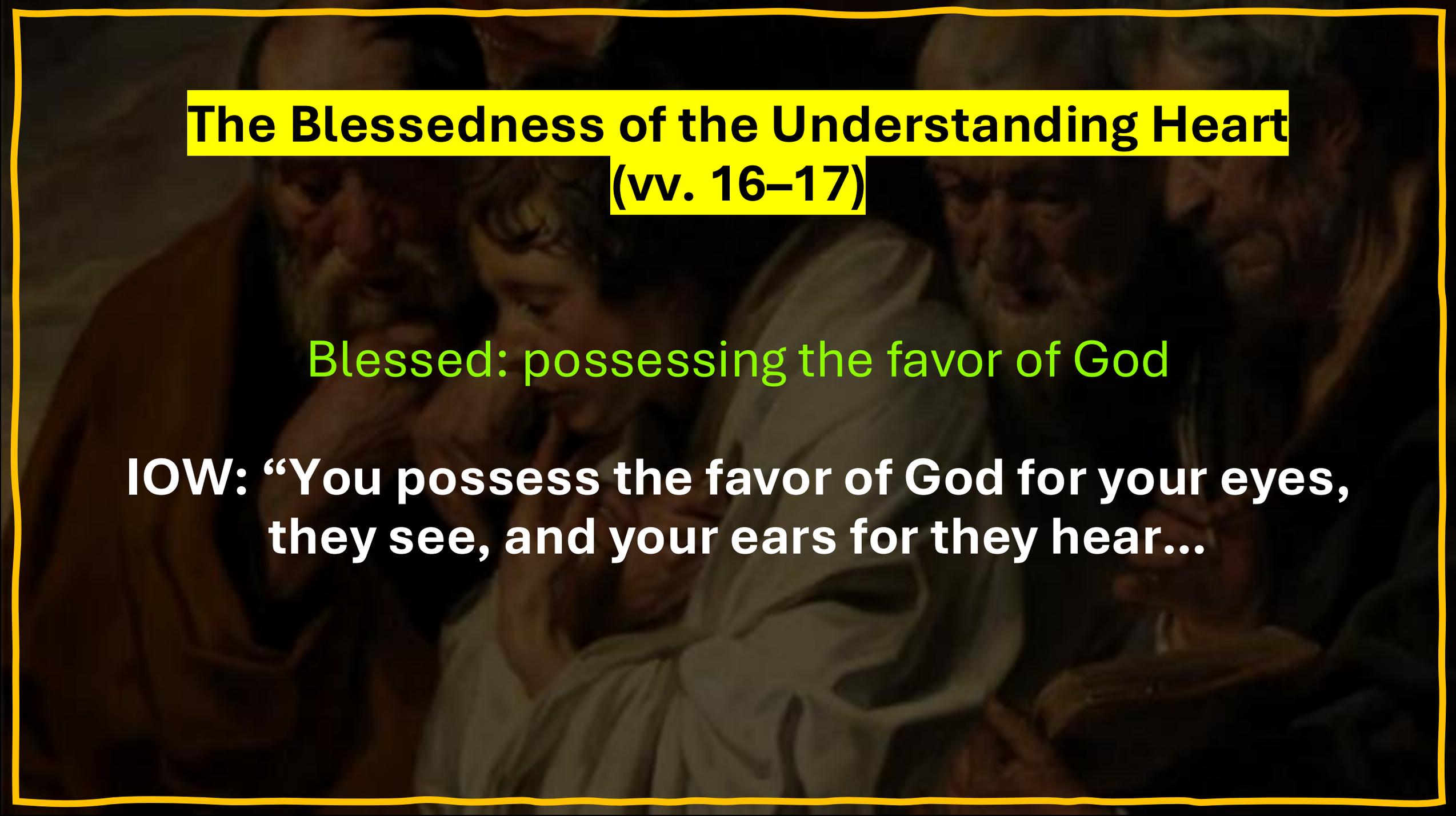
John 19:11

Heb 10:29



The Misery of the Hardened Heart
Mat 13:12-15; Mark 4:33

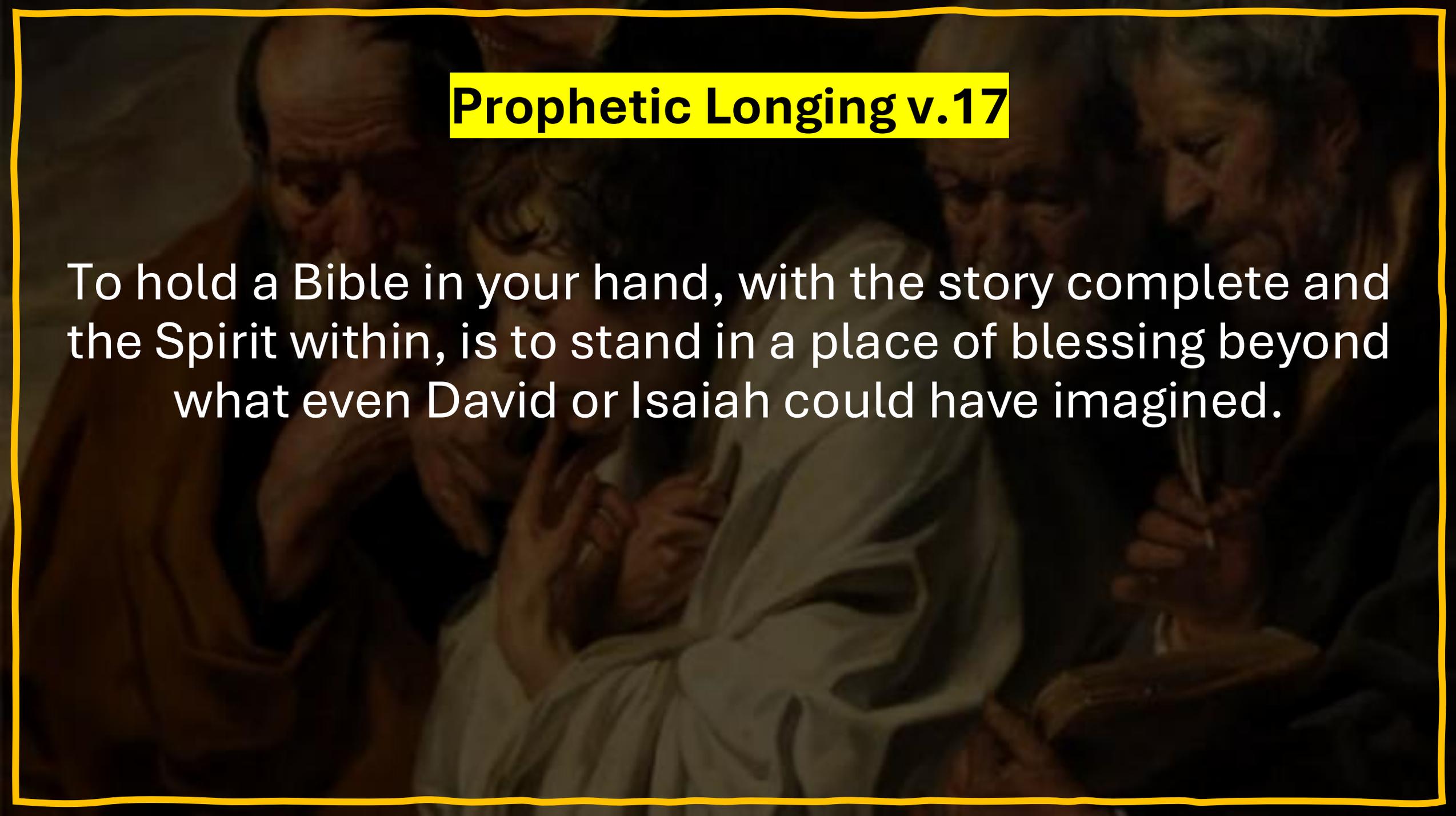
The misery of a hardened heart is to stand in the very presence of the Savior, with life and healing within reach, and yet remain in self-chosen darkness.



The Blessedness of the Understanding Heart (vv. 16–17)

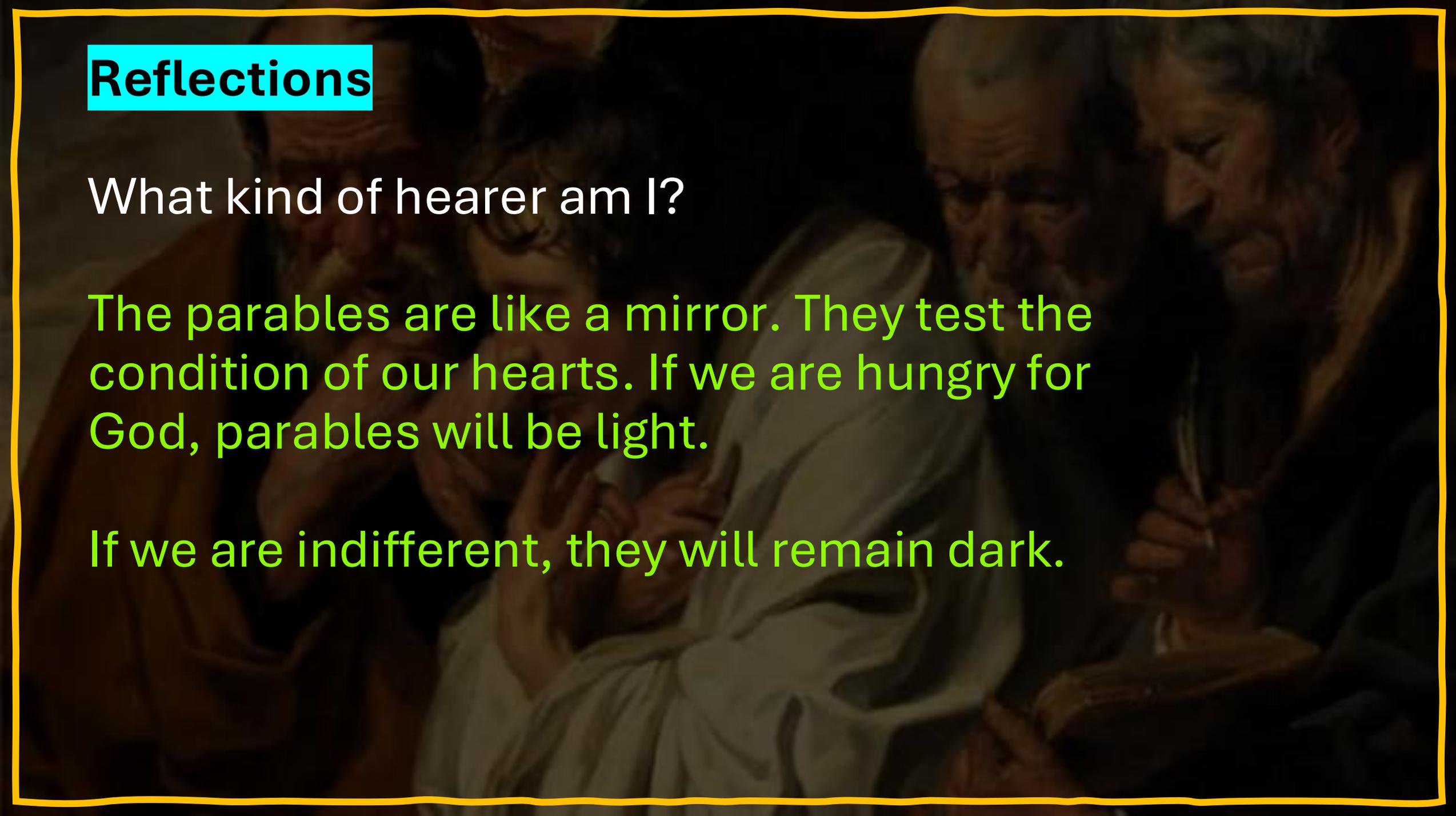
Blessed: possessing the favor of God

**IOW: “You possess the favor of God for your eyes,
they see, and your ears for they hear...”**

A group of people, including children, are gathered around a book, looking at it with interest. The scene is dimly lit, with a warm, golden light highlighting the book and the faces of the people. The background is dark, making the central group stand out. The overall mood is one of shared discovery and learning.

Prophetic Longing v.17

To hold a Bible in your hand, with the story complete and the Spirit within, is to stand in a place of blessing beyond what even David or Isaiah could have imagined.

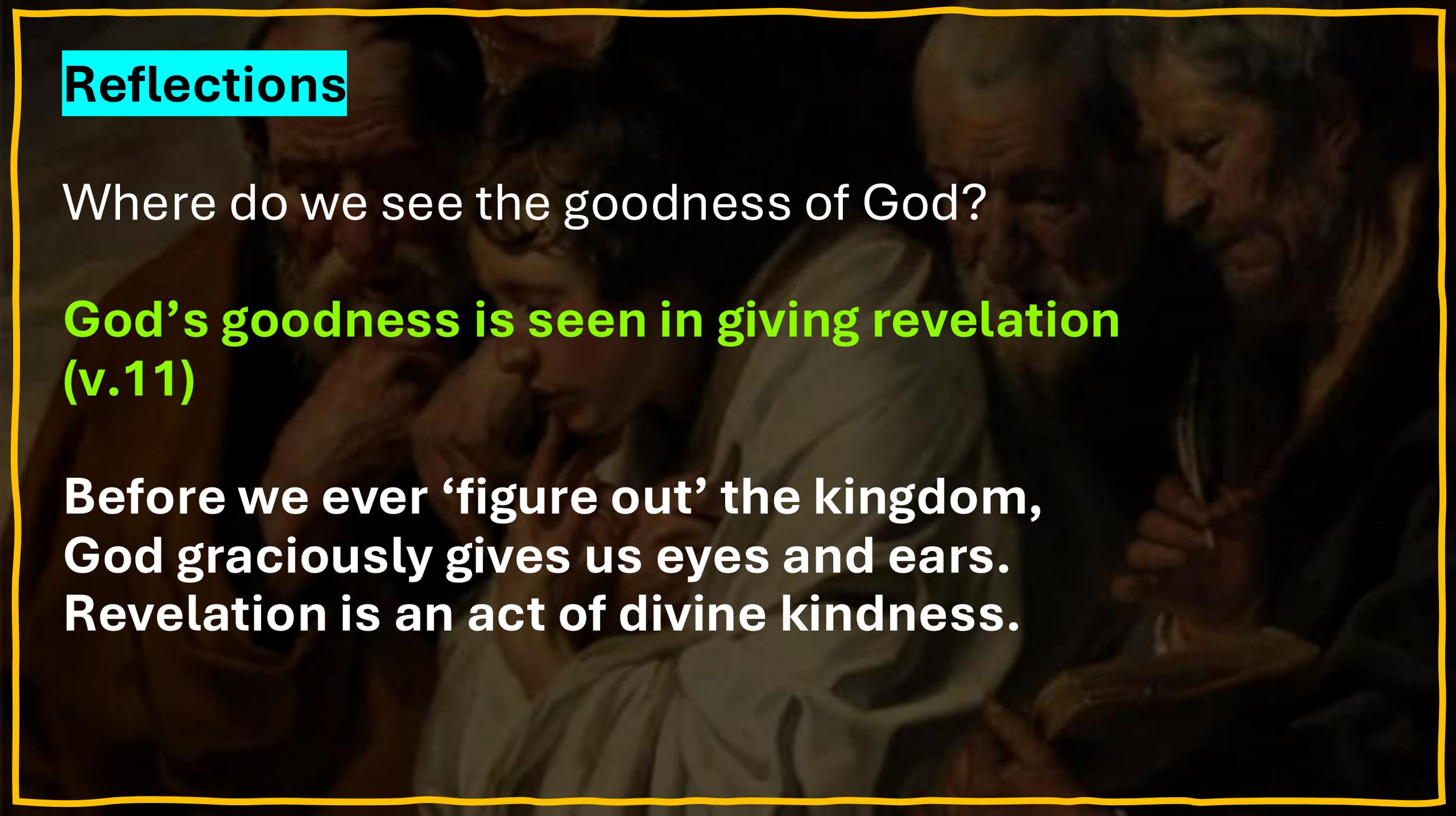


Reflections

What kind of hearer am I?

The parables are like a mirror. They test the condition of our hearts. If we are hungry for God, parables will be light.

If we are indifferent, they will remain dark.



Reflections

Where do we see the goodness of God?

**God's goodness is seen in giving revelation
(v.11)**

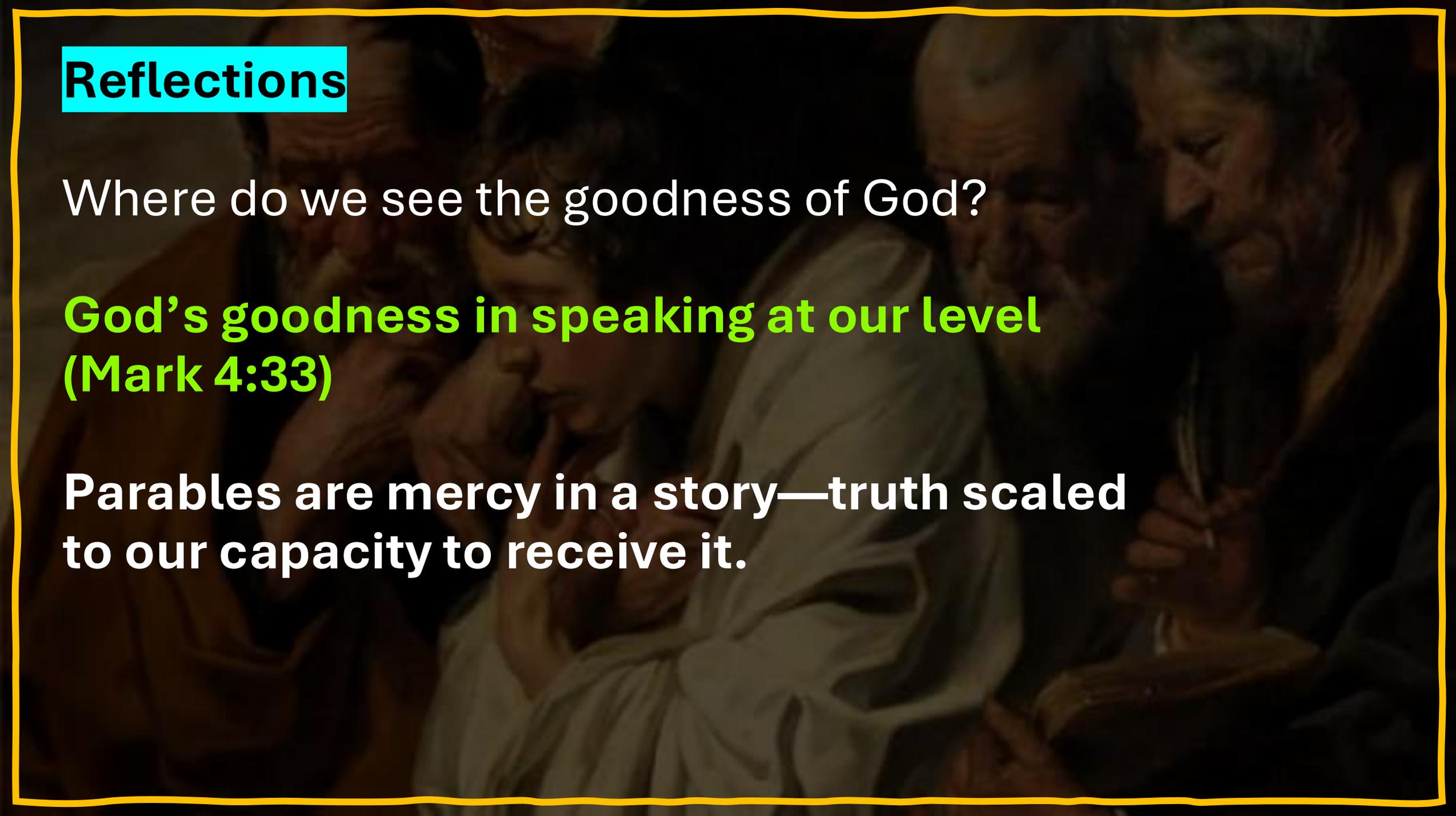
**Before we ever 'figure out' the kingdom,
God graciously gives us eyes and ears.
Revelation is an act of divine kindness.**

Reflections

Where do we see the goodness of God?

God's goodness is in giving more truth and insight to the receptive (v.12)

In God's economy, spiritual appetite and truth seeking is met with abundance. He loves to multiply light for those who lean in.



Reflections

Where do we see the goodness of God?

**God's goodness in speaking at our level
(Mark 4:33)**

**Parables are mercy in a story—truth scaled
to our capacity to receive it.**

Reflections

Where do we see the goodness of God?

God's goodness is seen in protective restraint (vv.13–15)

Even God's 'no more for now' is mercy—He restrains additional light when we'd only weaponize it against ourselves.

Reflections

Where do we see the goodness of God?

God's goodness is seen in fulfilling salvation's plan (vv.14–15, 34–35)

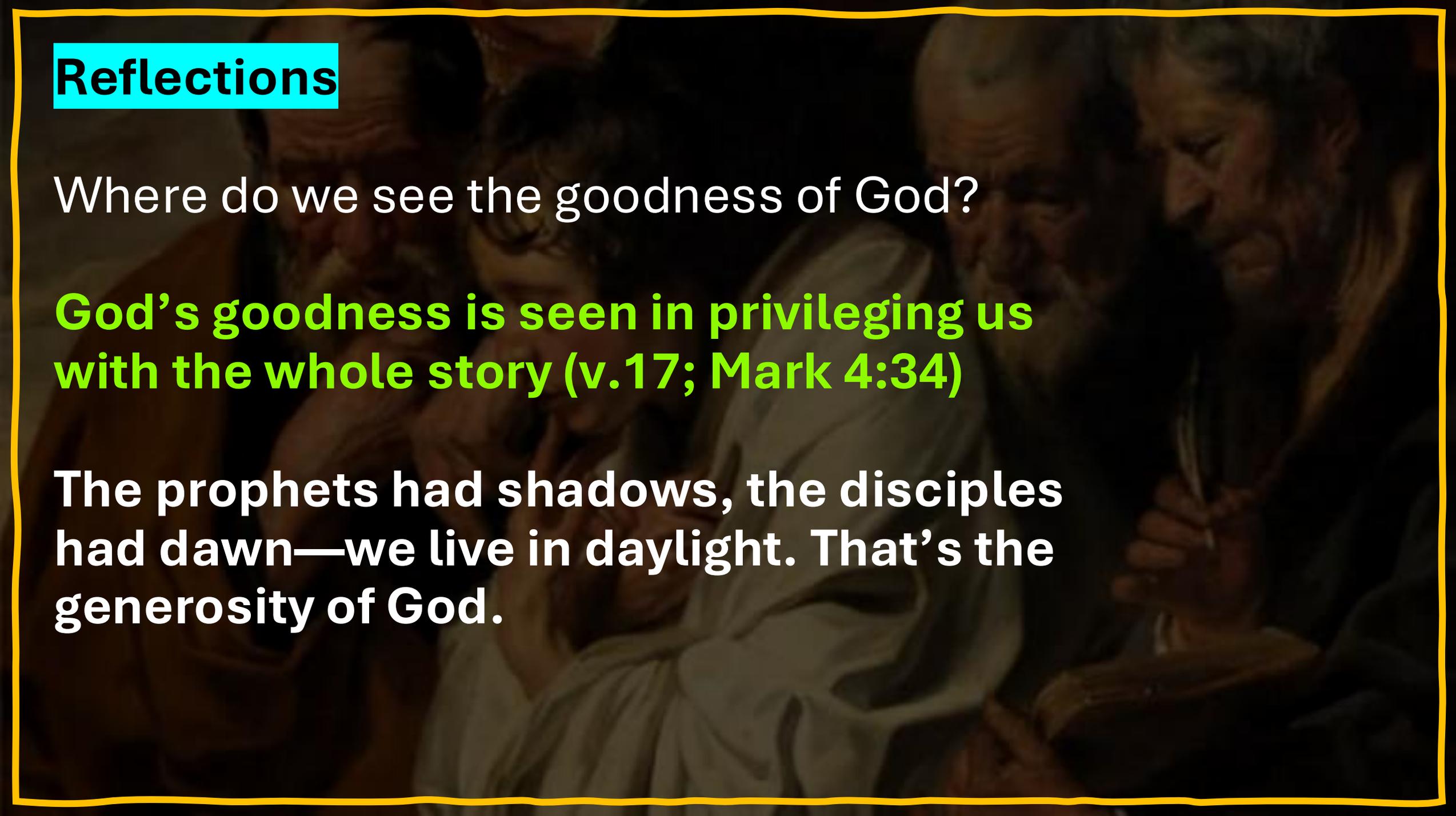
Prophecy fulfilled is God's goodness in slow motion—He keeps promises even through human hardness.

Reflections

Where do we see the goodness of God?

God's goodness is seen in blessing the humble (v.16)

**If you see, it's not because you're clever;
it's because God is good.**



Reflections

Where do we see the goodness of God?

God's goodness is seen in privileging us with the whole story (v.17; Mark 4:34)

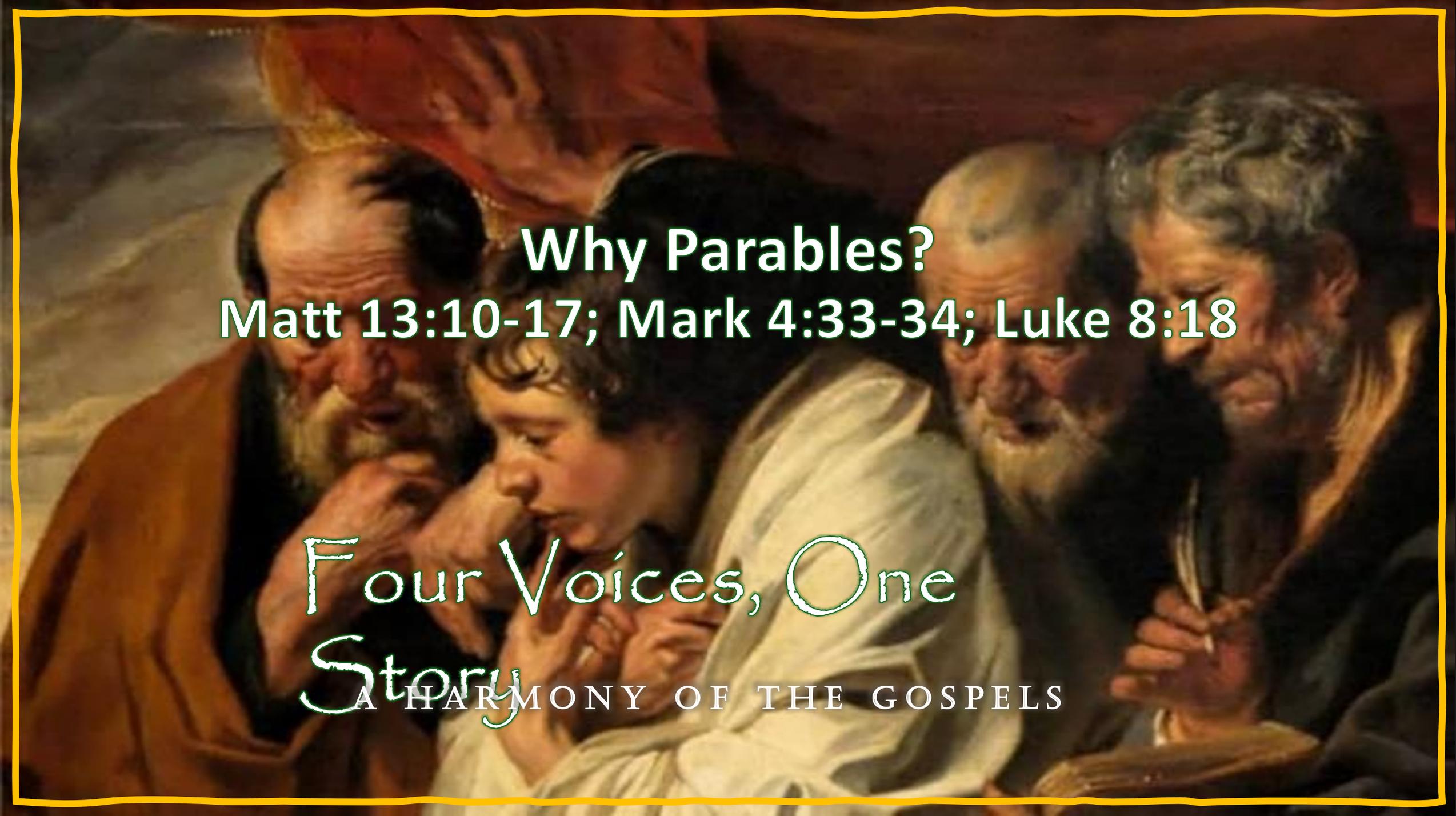
The prophets had shadows, the disciples had dawn—we live in daylight. That's the generosity of God.

Reflections

Where do we see the goodness of God?

God's goodness is seen in His standing invitation.

Rev 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.



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