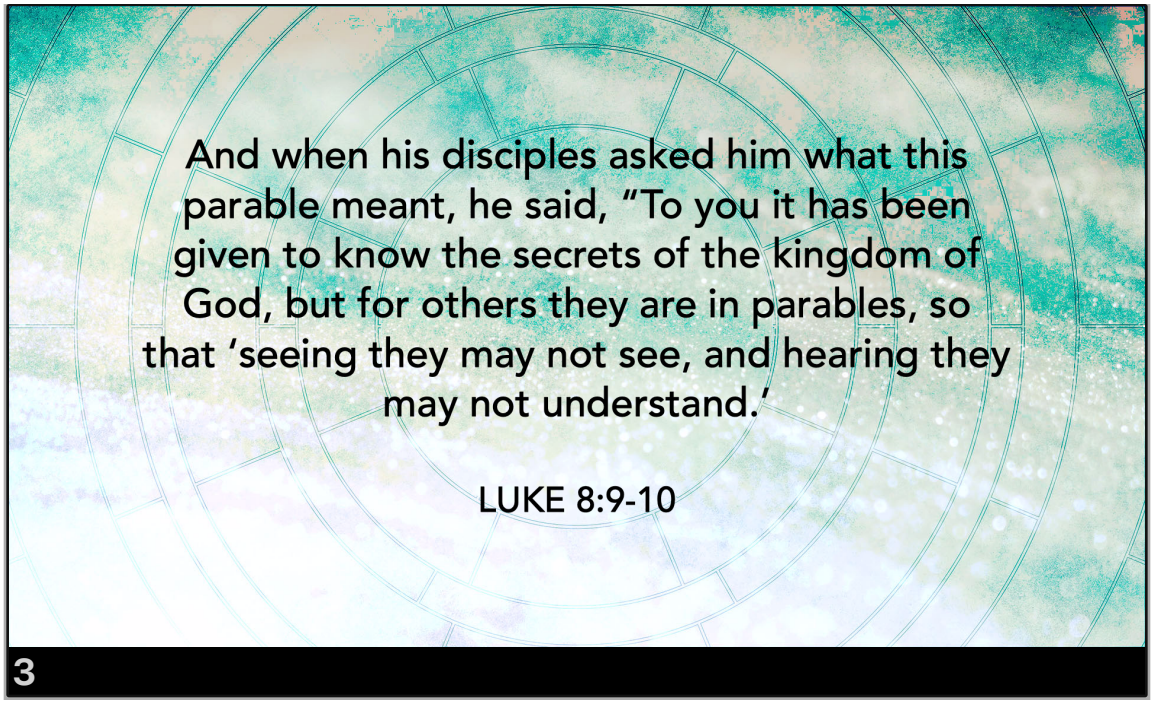
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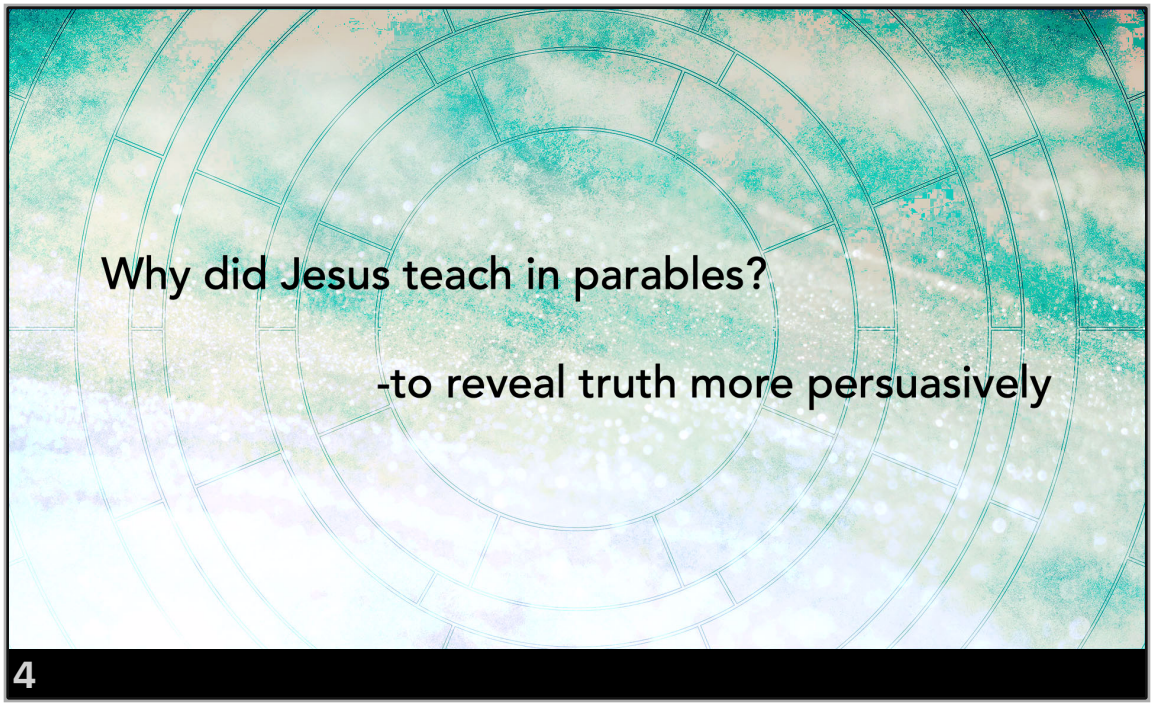


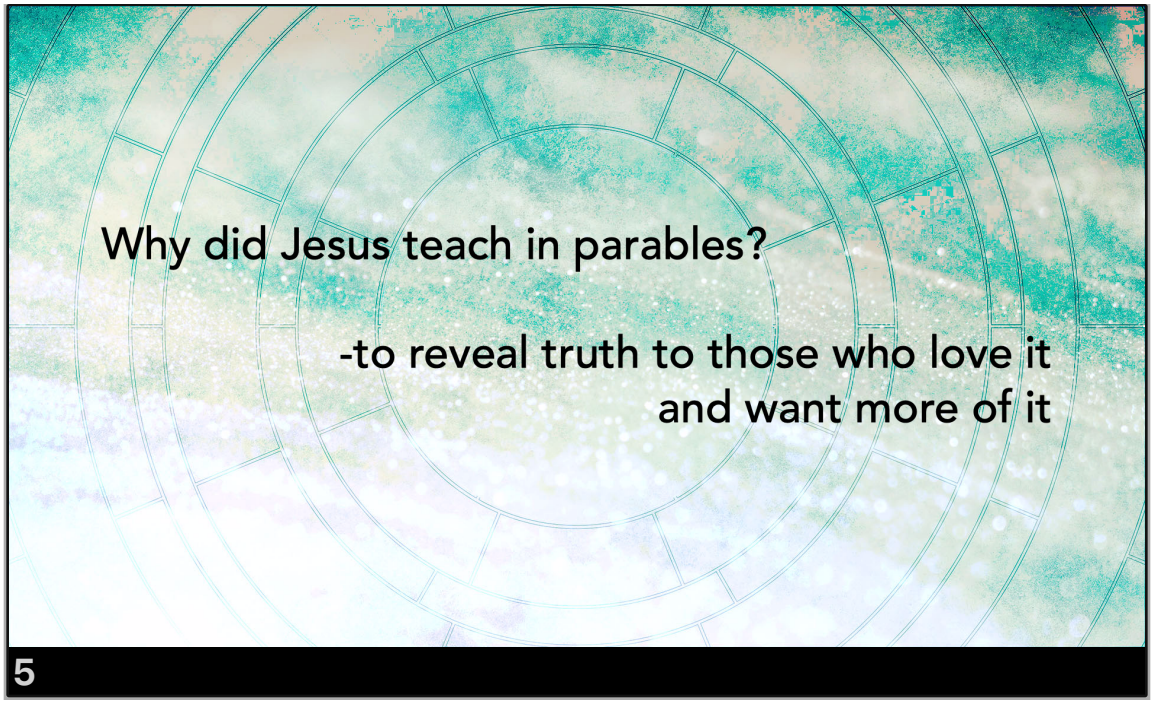
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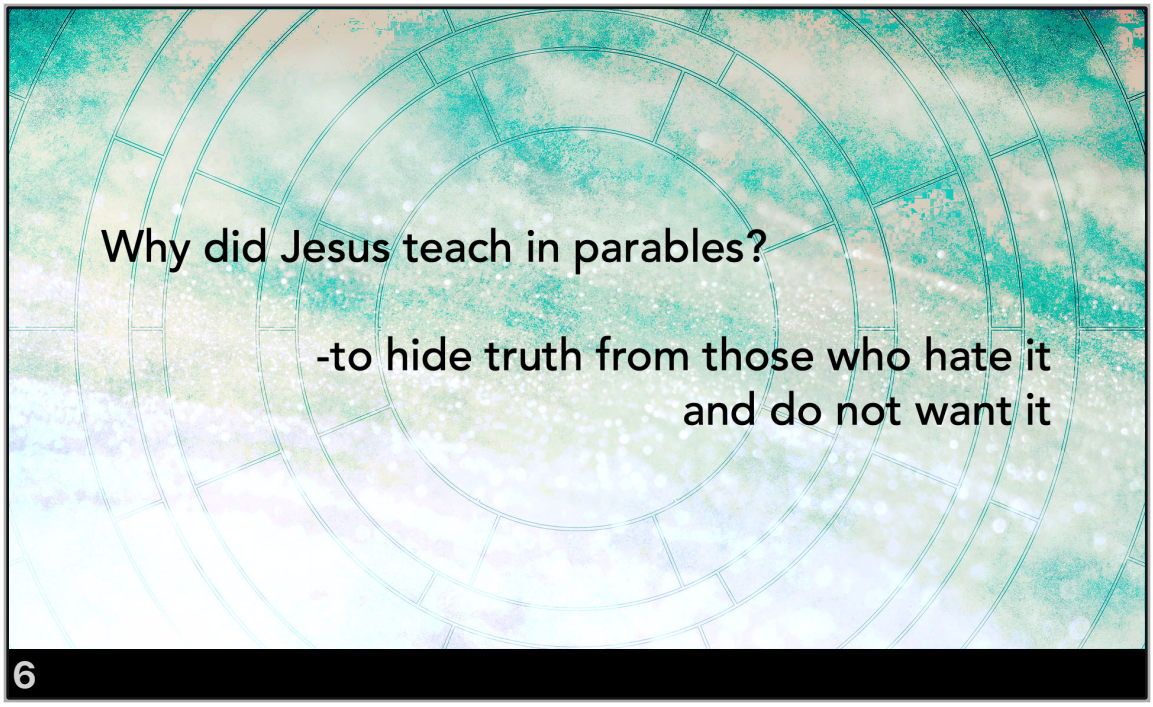


2


And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that 'seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.'
LUKE 8:9-10
3


Why did Jesus teach in parables?
-to reveal truth more persuasively
4


Why did Jesus teach in parables?
-to reveal truth to those who love it
and want more of it
5


Why did Jesus teach in parables?
-to hide truth from those who hate it
and do not want it
6

Isaiah fulfilled his commission to blind and harden the people by clearly preaching the truth, and when they rejected it, he preached it again in the clearest form possible, so their repeated rejections effected an increased hardness of heart. Some hearts were so hardened they went beyond the point of response.

- R. Kent Hughes

7

Four Kinds of Soil

Path — > Closed Hearts

And when a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable, "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it.
- Luke 8:4-5

8

Four Kinds of Soil

Path — > Closed Hearts

Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.
- Luke 8:11-12

9

Rocky — > Shallow Hearts

And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture.
- Luke 8:6

And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away.
- Luke 8:13

10

Gospel growth happens on the inside, beneath the surface

11



12

Thorns — > Distracted Hearts

And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it.
- Luke 8:7

And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature.
- Luke 8:14

13

Good — > Fruitful Hearts

And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold." As he said these things, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."
- Luke 8:8

As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.
- Luke 8:15

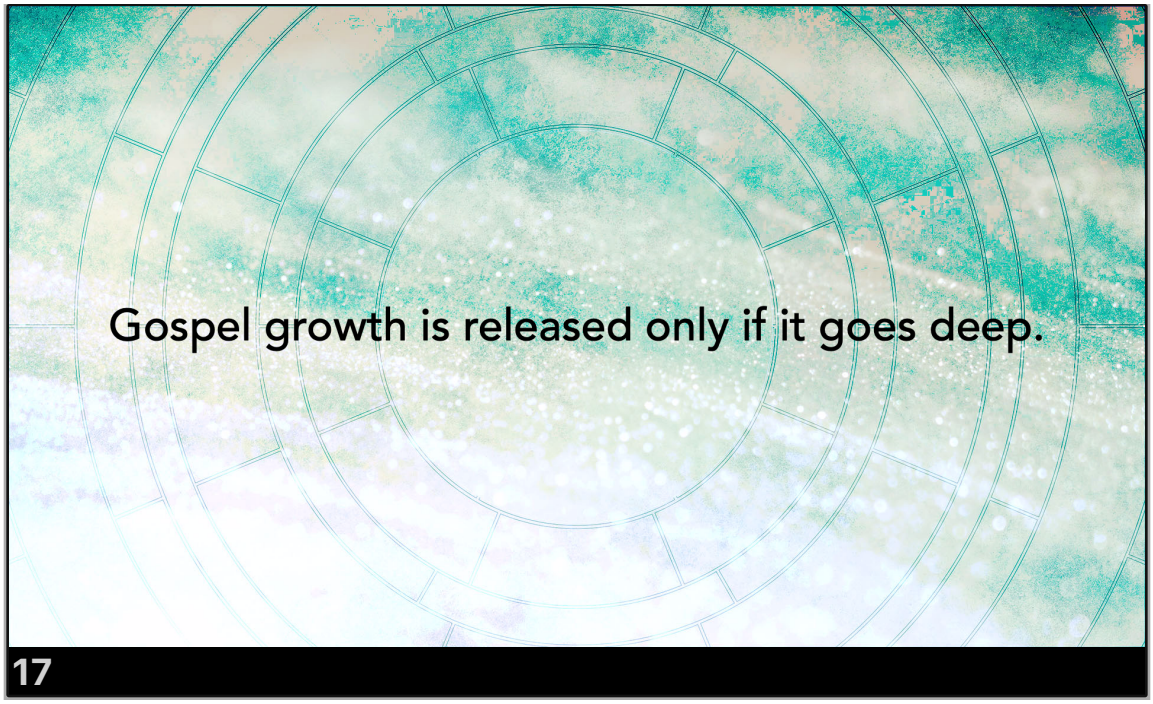
14

And the twelve were with him, and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means.
- Luke 8:1b-3

15

Gospel growth is organic, not mechanical.

16


Gospel growth is released only if it goes deep.
17


The gospel appears weak, but it is immensely powerful.
18



19 Group