

Chiasmus in Matthew 13:13–18

Key Scripture Matthew 13:13–18

Explanation The Savior used chiasmus on occasion. In this chart Jesus Christ is quoting Isaiah (Esaías), embedding Isaiah’s chiastic structure in his own larger discourse, which is also a chiasm. The Savior here begins and ends with a reference to parables and includes as the center of his chiasm the prophecy of Isaiah that many will close their eyes and refuse to see that Jesus is the Christ.

Source John W. Welch, “Chiasmus in the Book of Mormon,” *BYU Studies* 10 (autumn 1969): 69–84.

Chiasmus in Matthew 13:13–18

Therefore speak I to them in *parables*:

because they seeing *see* not; and hearing they *hear* not, neither do they understand.

And in them is fulfilled the *prophecy* of Esaias, which saith,

By hearing ye shall *hear*, and shall not understand;

and seeing ye shall *see*, and shall not perceive:

For this people's *heart* is waxed gross,

and their *ears* are dull of *hearing*,

and their *eyes*

they have *closed*;

lest at any time they should *see*

with their *eyes*,

and *hear* with their *ears*,

and should understand with their *heart*, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

But blessed are your eyes, for they *see*:

and your ears, for they *hear*.

For verily I say unto you, That many *prophets* and righteous men

have desired to *see* those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to *hear* those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

Hear ye therefore the *parable* of the sower.