

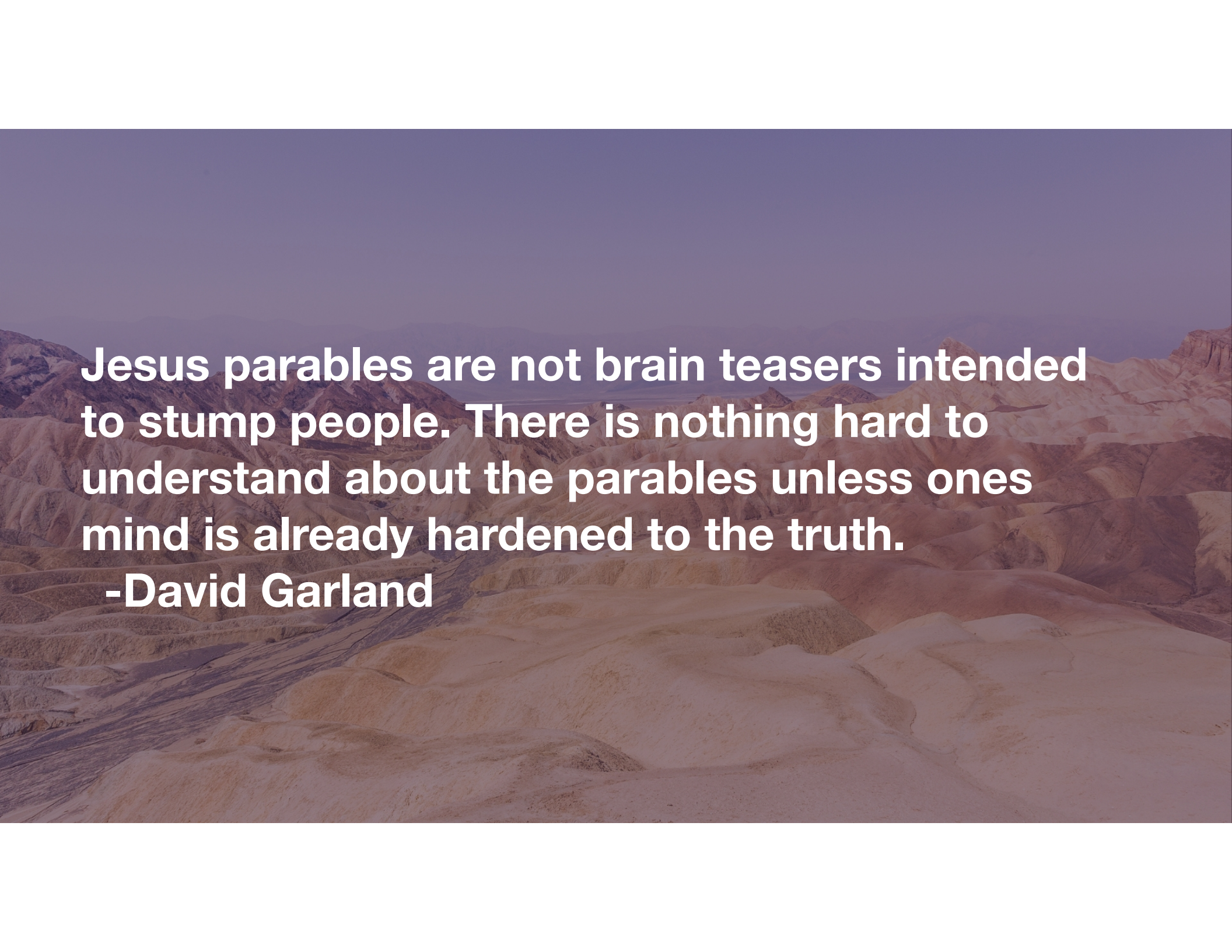


# MATTHEW

*THE LIFE AND  
TEACHING OF  
JESUS*

A SUNDAY MORNING SERIES



A photograph of a desert landscape featuring layered, eroded rock formations in shades of tan and brown. The sky above is a deep, hazy purple, suggesting dusk or dawn. The text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

**Jesus parables are not brain teasers intended to stump people. There is nothing hard to understand about the parables unless ones mind is already hardened to the truth.**

**-David Garland**



A wide-angle photograph of a desert landscape. The foreground and middle ground are filled with rolling sand dunes and eroded hills, showing various shades of tan, beige, and light brown. The terrain is rugged with some darker, possibly rocky or shadowed areas. In the far distance, a range of mountains is visible under a clear, pale blue sky. The overall atmosphere is one of vastness and isolation.

**Parables release the adrenaline of urgency into  
our bloodstream.  
-Eugene Peterson**