

From Plummer--St. Luke, Int. Crit. Com.

"It need not be doubted that the notion of placing beside for the sake of comparison, rather than that of merely putting forth, lies at the root of

. From the notion of (1) 'throwing beside' come the further notions of (2) 'exposing' and (3) 'comparing,' all three of which are common meanings of . While the adj. represents the derived notion on the one side, the subst. represents that on the other side. A , therefore, is 'an utterance which involves a comparison.'

Hence various meanings: 1. a complete parable or allegory (viii, 4, xiii.6, etc.); 2. a single figurative saying, proverb, or illustration (here; v. 36, vi. 39); 3. a saying of deeper meaning, which becomes intelligible through comparison, in which sense it is sometimes joined with (Prov. 1.6),

(Ps. xlix. 5, lxxviii. 2), and the like. In the teaching of Christ is commonly used in the first sense, and is a means of making known the mysteries of the kingdom in a mixed audience; for it conceals from the unworthy what it reveals to the worthy (viii, 9, 10). See Crem. Lex. pp. 124, 657; Hatch Bibl. Grk., p. 70; Hase, Gesch. Jesu, Sec. 63, p. 535, ed. 1891; Didon, Jesus Christ, ch. vi. p. 391, ed. 1891; Latham, Pastor Pastorum, ch. x.--P. 125.