

# The Parables of Jesus

## Lesson one

- I. Why study the parables?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ of the teachings of Jesus was done in parables
    - i. See Matthew 13:34-35
  - b. The primary form used by Jesus to reveal the character of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and His \_\_\_\_\_ was with parables.
  - c. Therefore, in order to understand what Jesus believes about these, we need to understand the parables that He uses.
- II. What are parables?
  - a. It is difficult to “nail down” one specific definition since not every parable follows the same \_\_\_\_\_ or contain the same \_\_\_\_\_.
    - i. Because of this, it is difficult to determine exactly how many parables Jesus spoke.
    - ii. It is suggested that there are between \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. The Greek word is a combination of two words: “para” meaning “alongside” and “bole” which means “to throw.”
  - c. Therefore, basically, a parable is \_\_\_\_\_ saying or story that makes a \_\_\_\_\_ by laying side by side one truth that is easily \_\_\_\_\_ with a reality that is not as \_\_\_\_\_.
- III. Why did Jesus speak in parables?
  - a. Parabolic speech was a \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Eastern teaching style, even in the Old Testament.
    - i. See 2 Samuel 12:1-7 and Isaiah 5:1-7

- b. It \_\_\_\_\_ their attention and made the message easier to \_\_\_\_\_ since they were having to “\_\_\_\_\_” for the intended meaning.
- c. So that some \_\_\_\_\_ understand and others would \_\_\_\_\_.
  - i. See Matthew 13:10-13
- d. Thinking in pictures helps us \_\_\_\_\_ abstract concepts.
- e. In the Jewish mindset, it was expected that once a \_\_\_\_\_ was drawn, that it would always lead to a \_\_\_\_\_ or action.

IV. Why were they hard to understand?

- a. For those of Jesus day:
  - i. \_\_\_\_\_ ideas of either the teacher or his message.
- b. For us:
  - i. Unfamiliar with culture based both on \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ii. Not seeing the \_\_\_\_\_ between the parable and the other teaching of Jesus.
  - iii. Not seeing the parables considering the intended purpose of the \_\_\_\_\_ writers.

V. How to get the most from our study?

- a. Addressing the last three items;
  - i. \_\_\_\_\_, as best as possible, with the cultural context.
    - 1. We must strive to \_\_\_\_\_ it as the original hearers did.
  - ii. Place its message in the \_\_\_\_\_ teaching of Jesus.
  - iii. Place its message in the \_\_\_\_\_ of each gospel writers intended purpose.

1. Remember every parable was told \_\_\_\_\_, once by Jesus, and once by the gospel writers.
  - b. If recorded in more than one place, \_\_\_\_\_ the details.
  - c. Focus only on what is \_\_\_\_\_ and not on what is left out.
  - d. Remember parables are \_\_\_\_\_ – the message is in what is being referenced.
  - e. Ask “what is the \_\_\_\_\_ truth?”
  - f. The intended essence is in the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - g. Remember it is not possible to \_\_\_\_\_ the whole of Christ’s teaching in \_\_\_\_\_ parable.

# Parables of Jesus

The Parable	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
The Sower	13:3-9, 18-23	12:1-12	8:4-15	
The Weeds	13:24-30, 36-43			
The Mustard Seed	13:31-32	4:30-32	13:18-19	
The Yeast	13:33		13:20-21	
The Hidden Treasure	13:44			
The Pearl of Great Price	13:45-46			
The Net	13:47-50			
The Lost Sheep	18:12-14		15:3-7	
The Unforgiving Servant	18:23-35			
The Vineyard Workers	20:1-16			
The Two Sons	21:28-32			
The Wicked Tenants	21:33-46	12:1-12	20:9-19	
The Wedding Banquet	22:1-14			
The Fig Tree	24:32-35	13:28-31	21:29-33	
Wise and Foolish Builders	7:24-27		6:47-49	
The Good Samaritan			10:25-37	
The Rich Fool			12:13-21	
The Lost Coin			15:8-10	
The Prodigal Son			15:11-32	
The Shrewd Manager			16:1-9	
The Rich Man and Lazarus			16:19-31	
The Persistent Widow			18:1-8	
Pharisee and Tax Collector			18:9-14	
The Ten Minas			19:11-27	
The Two Debtors			7:41-43	
The Good Shepherd				10:1-18
The True Vine				15:1-8
The Talents	25:14-30			
Rich Young Ruler	19:16-30	10:17-31	18:18-30	
The Narrow Door			13:22-30	
The Wise Steward	24:45-51		12:42-48	
The Ten Virgins	25:1-13			
The Growing Seed		4:26-29		
Sheep and Goats	25:31-46			