

## Parables

Parables are the method used in the Holy bible to deliver a specific concept to the people. The parable sayer tries to explain the concept through his own life. This approach assumes that the original listener reacts to it, as well as all listeners across generations.

### What is a Parable?

From the beginning the church has called all the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ using the aforementioned approach a parable. However in the greek meaning of the word, Parable, we find that it means to draw comparison. The eastern mindset leans towards the usage of comparison in word and teaching. It also encourages this approach because it opens the door for interest and more study to understand what's meant.

### Why a Parable?

- The revelation of the kingdom of God in the person of Jesus Christ needed to be revealed to the people slowly, and according to their ability to accept the truth about the faith. That's why the Lord Jesus Christ used real life situations in his Parables (The king, the wedding, the vineyard, the Shepherd, the sower...) so that it's closer to their lifestyle and this way they'll understand better.
- And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables: 12 That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them (Luke 4:11-12) From this we understand that the Lord Jesus Christ used parables to help the listener to think and study. This was also double edged sword in the sense that the people who were (are) stubborn don't spend the time to study and therefore the truth and the message the Jesus Christ tried to reveal in the Parable is hid from them.

### What to take note of when studying a Parable:

1. The situational circumstances in which the parable was said.
2. The characters in the parable.
3. The beliefs of the characters in the parable (Luke 18:9-14)(Luke 10:25-27)

### Points to be aware of:

- Note that all parables try to present new ideas and concepts
- Don't try to find an exact match between yourself (or your life) and the different characters in the parable. First try to understand the general purpose of the parable then you can be able to come out with a useful lesson for yourself.
- The golden rule while studying a parable is to know that each parable has a main idea (or goal). And it's not possible to associate each character with a real symbol. As an example we can say that the unjust judge is God, but we can say that the main point of the parable is to teach us to pray all the time without being bored or tired.
- We have to understand that all the mysteries and the points that the Lord Jesus Christ tried to reveal to us in a parable are not discovered yet. And when we study we must study the parable in the spirit of the person who wants to get something new about God.

### **Steps to study a parable**

1. Read the text of the parable. Determine your first impression. What's the first emotion that you felt after reading the parable? (fear, happiness, being impressed...)
2. Read the text and break it into sub headings and try to give a title to each subheading.
3. Read the text and determine the places where there is a change in place, characters and events.
  - a. Who:
    - i. Who are the audience? their occupation? their relationship to others? beliefs? Personal motivation? Their reason for being there to listen?
    - ii. Who are the characters in the parable? What do you know about their occupation and their personal motivation
  - b. Where:
    - i. What are the locations mentioned in the parable? What is its cultural and geographical background?
  - c. When (temporal):
    - i. When was the parable said?
    - ii. What are the main events of the parable and what happened before it was said?
    - iii. Try to understand the Cultural background of the parable.
    - iv. Try to contemplate on the events and the reaction of the people who listened to the parable? Ex: how was the parable received by the pharisees?
    - v. Try to understand the main characters of the parables. Try to share their feelings.
  - d. How:
    - i. How did the characters in the parable deal with God and others?
    - ii. Try to determine, if possible, the reaction of the audience to the parable?
  - e. What:
    - i. What is the message that the Lord Jesus Christ tried to deliver to the audience?
    - ii. Note the context of the parable of events that happened before and after the parable.
    - iii. How do we resemble the characters in the parable? How do we resemble the audience?
    - iv. How does their issues and problems resemble ours?
    - v. Does God dealing with them have any impact on us?
    - vi. Pray that the lesson learned can be applied to your daily life.

### **A list of the Parables of Jesus Christ**

1. Luke 15:11-32
2. Matthew 21:28-32
3. Matthew 11: 16-17
4. John 10:7-9

5. John 14:28-29
6. Matthew 25:14-30
7. Luke 13:6-9
8. Matthew 24:32-36
9. Matthew 13:31-32
10. Matthew 22:11-13
11. Matthew 18:12-14
12. Matthew 13:33
13. Luke 15:8-10
14. Luke 7:41-43
15. Matthew 22: 1-14
16. John 10:11-15
17. Matthew 13:3-8
18. Mark 4:26-29
19. Matthew 13:24-30
20. Luke 10:29-37
21. Matthew 13:47-50
22. Luke 11:5-8
23. Luke 16:19-31
24. Luke 12:35-38
25. Matthew 18:23-35
26. Matthew 25:1-13
27. Matthew 20:1-16
28. Luke 12:16-21
29. Luke 18:9-13
30. Luke 18:1-8
31. John 15:1-17
32. Matthew 21:33-45
33. Matthew 13:44
34. Matthew 13:45
35. Luke 19:11-26
36. Luke 14:31-32
37. Luke 16:1-8
38. Matthew 24:45-51