

Bible Basics: Parables

December 1st, 2020

Pastor Karen Natterstad

Zoom Host: Stephanie Broussard

Introduction



Definition

A parable is a figure of speech in which a comparison is made between God's kingdom, actions, or expectations and something in this world, real or imagined.

- **Arland Hultgren**, *The Parables of Jesus: A Commentary*

Parable Types

Narrative Parables: comparisons made include narration; typically have a “once upon a time” quality about them; stories that feels set in the past.

Similitudes: comparisons are made without stories but by means of the words “is like” or “is as if”; have a timeless feel.

How many parables are in the Bible?

- a. 38
- b. 60
- c. 3-4 dozen, it's hard to be exact
- d. All of the above

Characteristics: DIRECT

Is there anyone among you, who if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead? (Lk 11:11)

Which one of you, intending to build a tower doesn't sit down and estimate the cost? (Lk 14:28)

Which of these was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers? (Lk 10:36)

Characteristics: DAILY LIFE

- Money
 - Seeds
 - Sheep
 - Family
 - Growth
 - Light & Dark
 - Water
 - Trees
 - Shepherd
 - Gate
 - Net
 - Yeast
 - Salt
 - Friendship
 - Wedding
 - King
 - Weeds
 - Banquet
 - Work
 - Wine
 - Pearl
 - Builders
 - Weather
 - Coins
- 

Characteristics: SURPRISE END

Laborers in Vineyard: “These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.”

(Mt 20:12)

Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the 99 in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost...” (Lk 15:3)

Purpose of Parables?

Mark 4:10-12 (Mt 13:10-17, Lk 8:9-10)

When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables. And he said to them, “To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables; in order that ‘they may indeed look, but not perceive, and may indeed listen, but not understand; so that they may not turn again and be forgiven.’”

CONCEAL & REVEAL

Jesus' parables & crucifixion

“Two things are generally known about Jesus of Nazareth that are beyond historical doubt, and they are known around the world by Christians and non-Christians alike. The one is that Jesus was crucified in the first century. The other is that he taught in parables.”

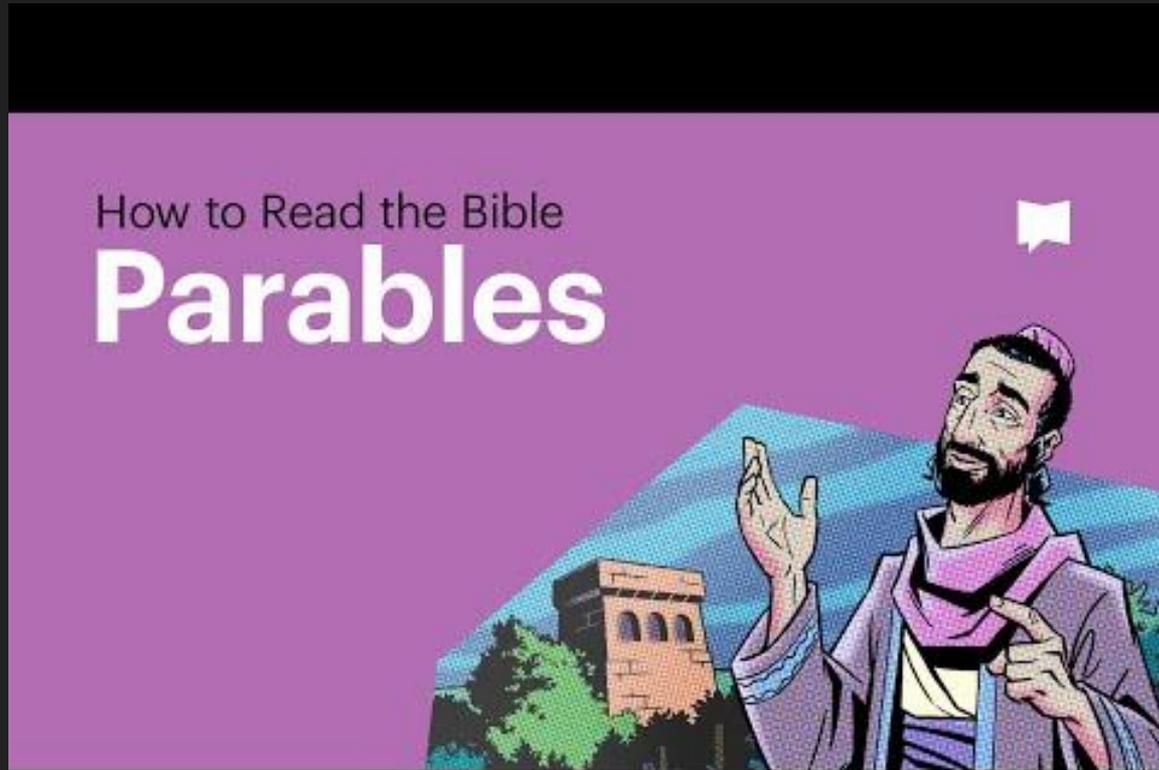
- [Arland Hultgren](#), *The Parables of Jesus: A Commentary*

Jesus' parables & crucifixion

“From the standpoint of faith, Jesus as the Christ is the Revealer of God and the Redeemer of humanity. His parables are the primary medium of revelation, and the cross is the primary means of redemption.”

A connection? Parables reveal the Kingdom of God; Roman officials crucified Jesus for claiming to be king.

Video - Bible Project: Parables



Characteristics (Bible Project)

1. The Kingdom of God is coming
2. “Upside down” nature of the Kingdom of God (what God is like, what life in the kindgom is like..)
3. Require a decision on our part

Interpreting Parables.....

1. The writer's context. (Matthew, Mark, Luke)
2. Historical setting or world view. (ex. Banquet etiquette, agrarian life, social status?)

Matthew's use of parables:

The kingdom is like...

- a. Mt 13:31-32 mustard seed
- b. Mt 13:33 yeast
- c. Mt 13:44 treasure
- d. Mt 13:45 pearls
- e. Mt 13:47-48 full net

Mark's use of parables:

“The Gospel of Mark contains relatively few parables when compared to the other two. He must have been more interested in narrating the story of Jesus, as he understood it, than in providing a rendition of Jesus' teachings.” - A.Hultgren

WICKED TENANTS (Mk 12:1-11)

(What precedes this parable, look at Mk 11:1-11)

Luke's use of parables:

- Luke provided our “favorites”:
Good Samaritan, Lk 10 & Prodigal Sons, Lk 15
- Is specific about audience that hears it
- Includes parables that have to do with compassion, both human and divine

Luke 18:1-8
The Unjust Judge

Next Class: Tues, **December 15th** (in 2 weeks) @7:00pm

SESSION 6

Letters in the Bible

Romans 12:9-21 Marks of A Christian