



F. Y. C.

For Your Consideration

❖ MARCH 2020 ❖

WHY JESUS TAUGHT IN PARABLES

Answer: Matthew 13:10-16

- The Jewish leaders
- had not repented
 - had refused the invitation to come to Him (Christ)
 - had criticized His miracles, teachings, and life
 - were seeking to destroy Him
 - had attributed His power as coming from Beelzebub
 - were demanding signs
- :11 *“to grant unto you to know the mysteries”* [believers]
“to them not to be granted” [non-believers]
- :12 *“for whoever has [believers], more given”*
“for whoever has not [non-believers], what he has will be taken away”
The non-believer had an opportunity to learn and know; now the opportunity is taken away. He will not be able to know and learn until he believes.
- :13 *“for seeing . . . they do not see”*
The non-believers saw the miracles, but didn't see the power of God. They watched in order to criticize.
“for in hearing. . . they do not hear”
They heard the message, but they listened in order to find fault.
- :14-15 [A quotation from Isaiah casting light on the current situation.]
- :16 Jesus clothed spiritual truths with “natural” circumstances, thereby enabling his disciples (then and now) to grasp the truths.

Jesus' disciples (learners and followers) would benefit from hearing the parables. The parables would help them increase their understanding of the kingdom of God. Others, who were not disciples, would lose what they had heard, its meaning escaping their notice.

~~~~~ **What Was the Lesson in Each Parable?**

Recently, I heard an evangelist had seven lessons based on one verse: John 3:16. That's quite an accomplishment. And many have plumbed the depths of the parables in numerous articles. And that is well and good. But the main lesson is what's important. It's possible to look too closely at the trees [words] and not clearly see the forest [main point and the context].

It would do us good to “hear” the parables as one who was there at the time and place under the same circumstances. What was the lesson Jesus wanted His hearers to understand?

My take away (the main point) of each parable is briefly stated in the following pages.

❖ PARABLES ❖

NATURE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE KINGDOM

SOWER Mat.13:3-8, Mar.4:3-8, Luk.8:5-8
The varied effects of the Word upon different hearts.

TARES Mat.13:24-30
The separation of good and evil people is reserved for the future.

MUSTARD SEED Mat.13:31-32, Mar.4:30-32, Luk.13:18-19
The small beginning and great growth of the kingdom.

LEAVEN Mat.13:33, Luk.13:20-21
The Gospel, injected into the world, will have its influence on mankind.

HIDDEN TREASURE Mat.13:44
Realize the value of the kingdom and give up all to have a part in it.

PEARL OF GREAT PRICE Mat.13:45-46
Willingness to pay the price of discipleship.

DRAG NET Mat.13:47-50
The careful, final separation of good and evil at the end of the world.

BLADE, EAR AND FULL CORN Mar.4:26-29
The Lord relies on the power of His Word and the condition of men's hearts to produce salvation.

RICH MAN AND LAZARUS Luk.16:19-31
If the revelation of God's will by inspired men doesn't produce repentance in those who serve mammon, then nothing will.

SERVICE AND REWARDS

LABORERS IN THE VINEYARD Mat.20:1-16
Those who work long and suffer much will receive what was promised. They will not receive more when others who worked less receive the same.

TALENTS Mat.25:14-30
God will not require more than we are able to do. He will not accept any excuse for inactivity. Do what you can with the ability you have.

POUNDS Luk.19:11-27
We are to serve the Lord now. However, our reward comes later.

UNWORTHY SERVANT Luk.17:7-10
When we have done all, we are still unworthy servants. Salvation is God's gift.

PRAYER

FRIEND AT MIDNIGHT Luk.11:5-8
The need to be earnest and persistent in prayer.

UNJUST JUDGE Luk.18:1-8
We ought to pray always and not lose heart.

HUMILITY

LOWEST SEAT AT THE FEAST Luk.14:7-11
Selfish ambition condemned. Humility is desired.

PHARISEE AND THE PUBLICAN Luk.18:9-14
Arrogance is denounced. Humility is desired.

WORLDLY WEALTH

UNJUST STEWARD Luk.16:1-9
Disciples are to act wisely and prudently.

RICH FOOL Luk.12:16-21
It's foolish to rely on riches. Living isn't about having. It's about giving.

GREAT SUPPER Luk.14:15-24
Some things, though not wrong in themselves, can keep one from having a part in the Kingdom of God. We must be careful in setting priorities.

GRATITUDE

TWO DEBTORS Luk.7:41-43
Love in proportion to grace received. "He who is forgiven little, loves little."

WATCHFULNESS

TEN VIRGINS Mat.25:1-13
Be watchful, the Lord may come later than expected.

FAITHFUL AND UNFAITHFUL SERVANTS Mat.24:25-31; Luk.12:42-48
Be watchful, the Lord may come earlier than expected.

WATCHFUL PORTER Mar.13:34-37
Be busy, be prepared, be watchful at all times.

LOVE OF NEIGHBOR

GOOD SAMARITAN Luk.10:30-37
“Do” is the key word. Faith is “proved” by one’s actions (compassion).

GOD’S LOVE FOR THE LOST

LOST SHEEP Mat.18:12-14; Luk.15:3-7
Portrays the seeking love of God for sinners. No soul is unimportant.

LOST COIN Luk.15:8-10
Portrays the searching love of God for the lost. All souls are valuable.

LOST SON Luk.15:11-32
Portrays God as a merciful and forgiving father. We are to be merciful and forgiving when one returns and is forgiven by God.

JUDGMENT

TWO SONS Mat.21:28-32
A sinner who repents and does the Father’s will have part in the kingdom;
but a self-willed man will not. Lip service is not enough.

WICKED HUSBANDMAN Mat.21:33-44; Mar.12:1-12; Luk.20:9-18
The self-righteous reject the Son, just as their forefathers rejected the prophets.

BARREN FIG TREE Luk.13:6-9
God comes in judgment against those who refuse to repent.

MARRIAGE FEAST OF THE KING’S SON Mat. 22:1-14
Many are called to have a part in the kingdom, few accept the invitation.

UNFORGIVING SERVANT Mat.18:23-35
There is no limit to forgiveness—received or given.

Yes, there are countless lessons that can be drawn from the parables. But always remember the main lesson and the setting in which the parable is found.

~~~~~  
From the booklet **“The Parables of Jesus”** available at:  
[http://pdflessons.ra10ar.com/files/Parables\\_of\\_Jesus-2005.pdf](http://pdflessons.ra10ar.com/files/Parables_of_Jesus-2005.pdf)

F.Y.C. is a monthly publication by Ron Adams.  
Bible references are from the NASB except where another translation is referenced.  
Past Issues are archived at <http://ra10ar.com> All rights reserved. © 2020