

Reflection Questions: Am I still teachable? What evidence do I have to prove that I am? What parable is especially meaningful to me? Why?

How can we pray for one another this week?



1. What Is A Parable?

Quotes to Ponder

In the world of the parables it is in everyday experience that people make their spiritual decisions and that God's grace works.

Leland Ryken

Christ... was the clearest, most straightforward, and most outspoken of all speakers. He knew what He meant to say, and He meant His hearers also to know.

He wore His heart upon His sleeve, and spoke out what was in His mind in such plain, clear language that the poorest of the poor, and the lowest of the low were eager to listen to Him.

Charles Spurgeon

The parables break through mere words and make us ask whether there has indeed been any real difference in our lives.

James Montgomery Boice

Teaching through parables and other figurative means is effective because it helps make abstract truth more concrete, more interesting, easier to remember, and easier to apply to life.

John MacArthur

Each one of the parables is like a casket, itself of exquisite workmanship, but in which jewels richer than itself are laid up or like fruit, which however lovely to look upon, is yet more delectable in its inner sweetness.

R.C. Trench

The Lord's parables bring encouragement, because in them we meet ourselves and our God.

Gary Inrig

2. How Do We Interpret Parables?

3. What Is The Purpose of Parables?

1. What in the text/sermon impacted you most? Encouraged you? Convinced you? Challenged you? Confused you?
2. What is a *parable*? What does it literally mean?
3. Read *Matthew 5:21-30*. How would you describe Jesus' style of teaching here?
4. Read *Luke 4:16-27*. How would you describe Jesus' style of teaching here? How does it compare to the way He teaches in *Matthew 5:21-30*?
5. Read *Matthew 13:31-35*. How would you describe Jesus' style of teaching here? How does His teaching differ from that in the two passages above?
6. What was Jesus' purpose in teaching through parables?
7. When in His ministry did Jesus start teaching using parables almost exclusively? Why?
8. In what gospels are the parables of Jesus found? Not found? Why?
9. Why are parables an effective teaching method?
10. What's the difference between a *parable* and an *allegory*?
11. How many parables of Jesus are found in the gospels? Explain your answer.
12. How are we to interpret parables?
13. What sermons stay in your memory days, weeks, even years after you hear them? Why?
14. Read the stories below. Is it a parable or not? Why?
Judges 9:7-15 — *Isaiah 5:1-7* —
2 Samuel 12:1-4 — *Ezekiel 17:1-10* —
2 Kings 14:9 — *Ezekiel 24:3-5* —
15. What can we learn about being teachable from *Psalms 32:8-9*?

 What do you think it means when it says, *I will counsel you with My eye upon you (Psalm 32:8)*?

 How is that different from being led by a *bit and bridle (Psalm 32:9)*?

 The context for this passage has to do with repentance. Read *Psalms 32:1-5*. How do confession and repentance help us to be teachable?

Between a *parable* and a *fable*?