

The Parables - a fresh look at the sayings of Jesus
Faithful – the story of the Ten Minas
Luke 19:11-27

Introduction:

1. Scripture records some 40 parables
2. What was the purpose of these misunderstood word pictures?
3. In this series we will reveal why Jesus spoke in parables and the danger of missing their intended meaning
4. We will learn together how these ingeniously simple tales can revolutionize your perspective on the gospel, salvation from sin, and life in the kingdom of God.
5. Down through the centuries, starting with the Gospel writers themselves, the parables have been allegorized, moralized and otherwise tamed into platitudes such as '*God loves us*' or '*be nice.*'
6. If we stop with the easy lessons, good though they may be, we lose the way Jesus' first followers would have heard the parables, and we then lose the genius of Jesus' teaching.
7. So I want us to hear the parables anew in their own historical contexts and then to see how those original messages still have value.
8. Too often we settle for the easy interpretations: We will be forgiven, as was the prodigal son; we should pray and not lose heart, like the persistent widow
9. A mistake we make is that we do not understand the culture of the day nor do we contextualize the parables is because we know little or nothing about early Judaism
10. One-third of Jesus' words in the Gospels occur in parables— so understanding the parables is essential for understanding the person of Christ.
11. We must remember that first-century Judaism was not merely the backdrop for Jesus' teachings but the very stage from which Jesus delivered the message of the kingdom.

Building blocks of story:

1. Jesus, desiring to convey spiritual truth which was new, and unfamiliar, chose analogies and illustrations and stories that were familiar from which to begin His teaching.
2. Jesus builds this story on a historical incident very familiar to the people of Judea and particularly familiar as well to the people of Jericho, that important city in Judea.
3. Please note that this story is not the same as parable of the talents in Matthew 25 which was told in the middle of Passion Week so don't mingle them
4. This story of in Luke 19 Jesus tells on the road from Jericho to Jerusalem
5. This is the story of a nobleman going away to receive a kingdom
6. While he is gone he is expecting his servants to do business on his behalf and make a respectable profit for him
7. But the citizens of his country don't want him to be their king - ***Verse 14 says they hate him, and they do not want him to reign over them, so they send a delegation following him as he goes to a higher monarch to receive the right to be the king over his own country.***

8. They send a delegation to plead with the superior king
9. There are three groups of people – those did what they were supposed to do – those who did not do what they were supposed to do and the onlookers
10. What is compelling is that we are all in this story

Background:

1. Rome ruled this part of the world
2. Israel was occupied by Rome – they allowed local rulers to be in place
3. The kings that ruled Israel were neither Romans or Jews – they were Idumaeans
4. When Herod died his kingdom was divided among 3 sons and his sister
5. The son who given was Archelaus and his kingdom included Jerusalem and Jericho
6. Jesus is on the road from Jericho to Jerusalem
7. The people detested him and sent a deputation to Rome – was called ethnarch

Purpose behind story:

1. ***Verse 11*** “and while they were listening to these things”
2. What things? ***Verse 10*** “For the Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost”
3. He knew what they were thinking
4. They thought the earthly Kingdom of God was about to going to appear
5. Their eschatology was correct, but they did not understand the sequence or timing
6. He came to offer salvation to all those who would confess their sinful lostness
7. ***Luke 17:21*** “the Kingdom is within you”
8. When He comes again He will reign over everyone
9. ***Revelation 19*** – He comes back as King of Kings and Lord of lords”
10. ***Philippians 2*** says “every knee will bow”
11. ***Verse 11*** – “because He was nearing Jerusalem they supposed the kingdom would appear”
12. Appear used only twice in NT – the other was in ***Acts 21:3*** means “come into sight”
13. But they missed a great deal of what He said and did not understand the sequence of events
14. ***Verse 12*** “He said therefore, a certain nobleman went to a distant country”
15. He was going to ascend and then return some day
16. The Father has given Him His approval by establishing Him as Lord.
17. And He said to them ***Verse 13*** “do business with this until I come back”
18. Slaves in this context does not mean what we think it does
19. What is it He has told us to do?
20. What does He expect of each of us?

