



**True Vine Ministries**

**Bible Study Alive**

**2024**

# Lesson One

## What Is a Parable?

The word “parable” is taken from the Greek word *parabole*, meaning literally “a throw alongside.” A parable is a comparison from daily life, thrown in to illustrate something abstract. This solid connection with everyday reality gives parables a “ring of truth.”

Parables are found in both the Old and New Testaments. In the Old Testament, the prophet Nathan used a parable of a man and his pet lamb to show David his guilt in taking Bathsheba from Uriah.



### **2 Samuel 12:1–4 (ESV)**

**1** And the Lord sent Nathan to David. He came to him and said to him, “There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor.

**2** The rich man had very many flocks and herds,

**3** but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. And he brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children. It used to eat of his morsel and drink from his cup and lie in his arms, and it was like a daughter to him.

**4** Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was unwilling to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the guest who had come to him, but he took the poor man’s lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him.”

Jesus’ parables are almost always for the masses. They are easily recognizable snips of everyday life, chosen to illustrate the truths about God’s kingdom. Jesus speaks of fig trees and mustard seeds, sheep and goats, poor beggars and rich fools. The common man can readily hear the ring of truth in the simple stories of Jesus. However, faith was needed to grasp many of the true meanings of the parables.

### ***Why Does Jesus Speak in Parables?***

We might answer that the parable makes the truth it is trying to teach easier to grasp. At least once you know what that truth is. But the reason Jesus gave for using parables was quite different. When the disciples asked Jesus why he spoke in parables, they were asking more than they knew—and Jesus’ answer gave them far more than they expected.

### **Matthew 13:10–17 (ESV)**

**10** Then the disciples came and said to him, “Why do you speak to them in parables?”

**11** And he answered them, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.

**12** For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.

**13** This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

**14** Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: “ ‘ “You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive.”

**15** For this people’s heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.’

**16** But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear.

**17** For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

### **Reason 1: To Teach His Disciples**

The first reason that Jesus gave for using parables was to impart "the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven" to his disciples. The parables were a teaching tool to help them understand what he had to say to them.

### **Reason 2: To Prevent Understanding by Others**

More challenging to understand is the second reason Jesus gave for teaching in parables. Jesus taught in parables to keep some people from understanding what he was teaching. Jesus’ use of parables served to divide his listeners into two groups: his disciples, and everyone else. His disciples would be able to learn from them. But to those who were not his disciples, their meaning was obscure. By using parables, his disciples would be enriched, but others would be further impoverished.

The Gospel of Mark underlines this divide when Jesus said to the disciples:

### **Mark 4:11–12 (ESV)**

**11** And he said to them, “To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables,

**12** so that “ ‘they may indeed see but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand, lest they should turn and be forgiven.’ ”

The parables simultaneously reveal and hide. They divide their hearers into two worlds. In one world a parable makes known the secret of the kingdom of God. But in the second world a parable remains only a parable, nothing more.

## **Summary**

Jesus had two reasons for teaching in parables. The first was to enable his followers to grasp the secrets of the kingdom of heaven more easily. It was a teaching tool for them and us. And the presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer continues to use these parables today to teach us the secrets of the kingdom.

His second reason was just the opposite. It hid the secrets of the kingdom from those who had not committed themselves to his lordship. Parables allow those who have faith, along with the instruction of the Holy Spirit, to learn about the kingdom. And they prevent others from doing the same. Those without faith and the Spirit are unable to understand the truths of Jesus' parables.

## Lesson Two

# The Parable of the Sower

*Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23*

### Matthew 13:1-9 (ESV)

**1** That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea.

**2** And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach.

**3** And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow.

**4** And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them.

**5** Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil,

**6** but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away.

**7** Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.

**8** Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

**9** He who has ears, let him hear.”

### Matthew 13:18-23 (ESV)

**18** “Hear then the parable of the sower:

**19** When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path.

**20** As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy,

**21** yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.



**22** As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

**23** As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

**Insight:** *The Parable of the Sower was told to the crowd gathered around Jesus. Jesus tells the story of a sower who scattered seeds on four different soil types. The first type of ground was hard, and the seed could not sprout or grow at all and became snatched up instantly. The second type of ground was stony. The seed was able to plant and begin to grow. However, it could not grow deep roots and withered in the sun. The third type of ground was thorny, and although the seed could plant and grow, it could not compete with the number of thorns that overtook it. The fourth ground was good soil that allowed the seed to plant deep, grow strong, and produce fruit.*

*Jesus used this parable to explain to his followers and the disciples how there are different responses to the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

1. What does the seed represent?
  - Jesus
  - God
  - The Word of God
  - Satan
2. Who does the sower represent?
  - Jesus
  - Satan
  - A farmer
  - The Disciples
3. What happened to the seed that fell on rocky soil?
  - Birds ate the seed
  - The seed was choked
  - The seed started to grow, but did not take root
  - The seed grew and produced a yield of 100 seed

4. What happened to the seed that fell on the path?
  - Birds ate the seed
  - The seed was choked
  - The seed started to grow, but did not take root
  - The seed grew and produced a yield of 100 seed
5. What happened to the seed that fell among the thorns?
  - Birds ate the seed
  - The seed was choked
  - The seed started to grow, but did not take root
  - The seed grew and produced a yield of 100 seed
6. What does Jesus mean when he says, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear?”
  - Listen to what is being said, evaluate it, and decide what is best to do.
  - Pay attention Mark 4:3
  - Put my words to the test
  - Jesus is only talking to those people who have ears
7. Who does the seed that fell by the wayside and birds devoured them represent?
  - Those who hear the word, are drawn to it, but fall away when faced with hardship or persecution
  - Those who hear the word but don't pay attention to it
  - Those who hear the word, understand it and put it into practice
  - Those who hear the word, but fall away in pursuit of wealth and riches
8. Who does the seed that fell on good soil represent?
  - Those who hear the word, are drawn to it, but fall away when faced with hardship or persecution
  - Those who hear the word but don't pay attention to it
  - Those who hear the word, understand it and put it into practice
  - Those who hear the word, but fall away in pursuit of wealth and riches
9. Who does the seed that fell on rocky places represent?
  - Those who hear the word, are drawn to it, but fall away when faced with hardship or persecution
  - Those who hear the word but don't pay attention to it
  - Those who hear the word, understand it and put it into practice
  - Those who hear the word, but fall away in pursuit of wealth and riches

10. Who does the seed that fell among the thorns represent?

- Those who hear the word, are drawn to it, but fall away when faced with hardship or persecution
- Those who hear the word but don't pay attention to it
- Those who hear the word, understand it and put it into practice
- Those who hear the word, but fall away in pursuit of wealth and riches

11. Who is prepared to hear Jesus' message

- Those that show up
- Everyone who has ears
- The Jews
- Those who have a heart to hear
- 

12. What can we learn from this parable?



## Lesson Three

### Parable of the Weeds

**Matthew 13:24–30 (ESV)**

**24** He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field,



**25** but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away.

**26** So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also.

**27** And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’

**28** He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’

**29** But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them.

**30** Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, “Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.”

**Insights:** In the story, Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to a man who goes out and sows good seed. However, the enemy sneaks into the field at night and sows weeds. Both the weeds and the wheat sprout at the same time. Trouble is, the workers have a hard time distinguishing between the two.

1. To what did Jesus compare His topic? (13:24)

2. In the Parable of the Weeds, what happened while the farmer slept? (13:25)

3. What appeared in the farmer's field besides the wheat he had planted? (13:26)

4. How did the owner's servants react when they found weeds in the field? (13:27)

5. How did the owner reply to his servants? (13:28)

6. What did the servants volunteer to do for the owner of the field? (13:28)

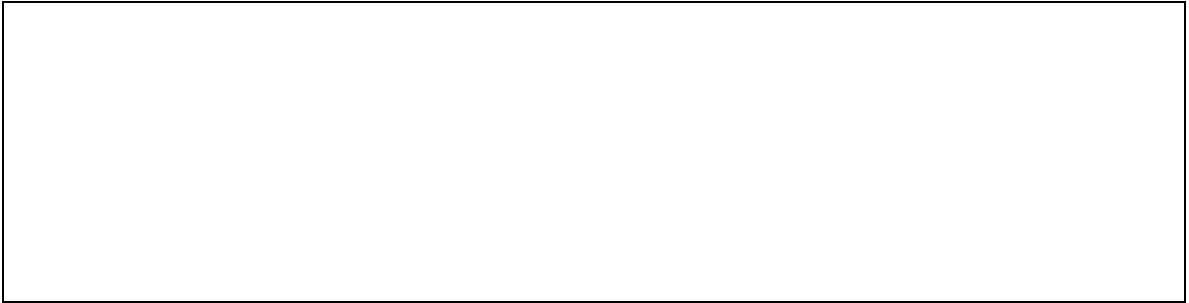
7. On what grounds did the owner turn down the servant's suggestion? (13:29)

8. What plan of action did the owner choose? (13:30)

9. What does this teach us about God?

10. What does this teach us about satan?

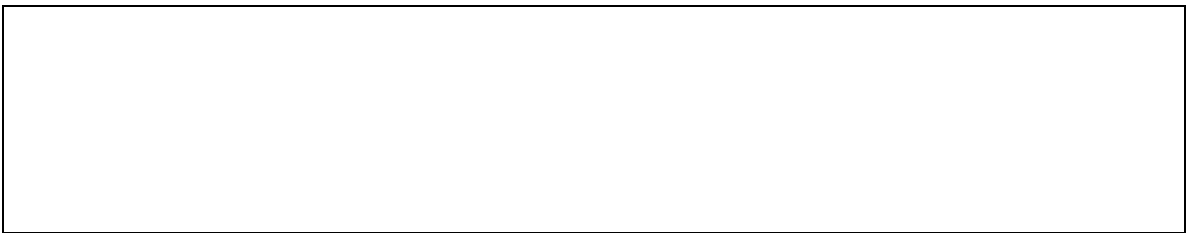
11. What does this teach us about people?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the student's answer to question 11.

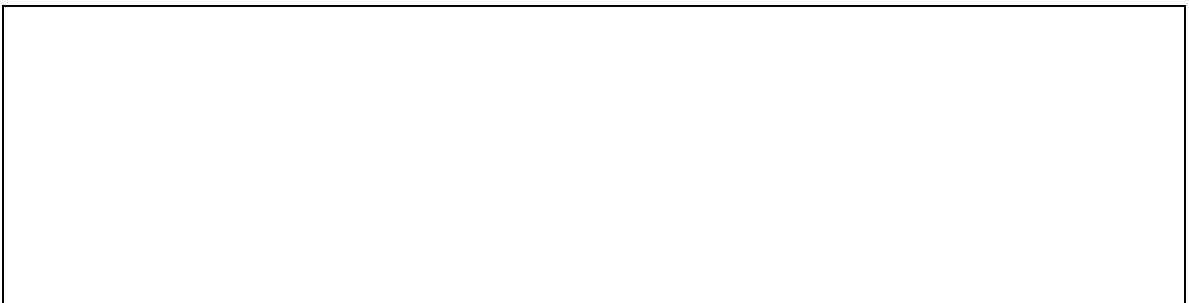
12. Why is the destruction of the weeds delayed?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the student's answer to question 12.

13. Is there a warning for us here?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the student's answer to question 13.

14. What is the difference between the real seed and the weed?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the student's answer to question 14.

## Lesson Four

### Parable of the Heart of Man

Matthew 15:10–20 (ESV)

10 And he called the people to him and said to them, “Hear and understand:



11 it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person.”

12 Then the disciples came and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?”

13 He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be rooted up.

14 Let them alone; they are blind guides. And if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.”

15 But Peter said to him, “Explain the parable to us.”

16 And he said, “Are you also still without understanding?

17 Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled?

18 But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person.

19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.

20 These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone.”

**Insight:** Jesus taught this parable to show that it is not the external actions that pollute a heart and defile a man. Rather these actions are the outpouring effects of evil. The root cause and source of a man’s depravity comes from within his own heart. A man becomes defiled when his heart prompts him to sin.

1. For what did the Pharisees criticize the disciples of Jesus?

- They criticized them for cooking their food on the Sabbath day.
- They criticized them for not washing their hands before eating.
- They criticized them for not fasting.
- They criticized them for being gluttonous.

2. Why did Jesus disregard the criticism of the Pharisees?

- This is because the Pharisees also eat without washing their hands.
- This is because these very Pharisees who were criticizing were in the habit of transgressing the commandment of God in favor of the Jewish traditions.
- This is because the Pharisees do not do what they preach.
- This is because the Pharisees were criticizing Him out of hatred.

3. What defiles a man?

- The things that come out of his mouth.
- The things that go into the mouth.
- The things that go into the heart.
- The things that go into the stomach.

4. Which people took offense at Jesus' teachings?

- The scribes
- The Sadducees
- The chief priests
- The Pharisees

5. According to Jesus, where do the things you say come from?

- Your mind
- Your tongue
- Your lips
- Your heart

6. How did the Pharisees respond the saying of Jesus?

- With gratitude
- With offense
- With sadness
- With joy

7. What thoughts come out of the heart?

- Sexual immorality
- Adultery
- False witness
- Slander

8. Traditions are always...?

- Good to have
- Bad
- Wrong
- Has its place

8. Did the disciples understand the parable?

- Somewhat
- Absolutely
- Absolutely not

9. What did Jesus tell the crowd makes a person unclean?

- Food that hasn't been washed
- Eating impure food
- Crossover contamination
- What comes out of a person's mouth

10. If the blind lead the blind they will end up where?

- At the School of the Blind
- In the pit
- Heaven's gate
- At the house of Peter

11. How did Jesus feel about the disciples lack of understanding concerning this parable?

- Frustrated
- Disappointed
- In awe
- Lost

12. Eating without washing your hands

- Does not defile you
- Is an indication of what's going on inside you
- Is an indication of how well you follow the law
- Is an indication that you are not one of His disciples

13. How did Jesus tell his disciples to feel about or respond to those who don't accept the truth?

- Leave them alone
- Mind the business that pays you
- Check them
- Run up on them

14. What happens to the plant that God did not plant?

- The wind will blow it away
- The birds will eat it
- It will not take root
- Th enemy will devour it

15. What can we learn from this parable?



## Lesson Four

### Parable of the Persistent Widow

**Luke 18:1–8 (ESV)**

**1** And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.

**2** He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man.

**3** And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’

**4** For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man,

**5** yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.’ ”

**6** And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says.

**7** And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them?

**8** I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”



**Insight:** The parable of the persistent widow in Luke 18:1-8 teaches us about persevering in prayer. We must always pray and never lose heart or give up when facing obstacles, but instead, pray continually like the widow who kept coming to the unjust judge. Through her persistence, justice was served.

1. What is the main lesson of the Parable of the Persistent Widow?

- Justice is only for the wealthy and powerful.
- Persistence in prayer is crucial, and God will bring about justice for those who cry out to Him day and night.
- Judges are easily swayed by persistent complaints.
- Widows have no place seeking justice.

2. How does the unjust judge in the parable respond to the widow's pleas?

- He grants her request immediately out of compassion.
- He refuses to listen to her and dismisses her case.
- He initially ignores her but eventually grants her justice to stop her from bothering him.
- He asks for a bribe in exchange for justice.

3. True or False: The parable suggests that God is like the unjust judge, reluctant to answer prayers. \_\_\_\_\_

4. True or False: The Parable of the Persistent Widow underscores the virtue of patience and the efficacy of persistent prayer. \_\_\_\_\_

5. The persistent widow's actions in the parable highlight the importance of \_\_\_\_\_ in seeking justice and answers to prayer.

6. The unjust judge decides to grant the widow's request to avoid her \_\_\_\_\_ him.

7. This parable encourages believers to always \_\_\_\_\_ and not lose heart, especially in matters of justice and faith.

8. The contrast between God and the unjust judge serves to emphasize God's \_\_\_\_\_ and readiness to answer those who call on Him.

9. The persistent widow received \_\_\_\_\_ for her persistence.

10. Will the Son of Man find \_\_\_\_\_ when He comes?

11. You should never lose \_\_\_\_\_ when praying.

## Lesson Five

### The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus

**Luke 16:19–31 (ESV)**

**19** “There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day.

**20** And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores,

**21** who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores.

**22** The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried,

**23** and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side.

**24** And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’

**25** But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish.

**26** And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’

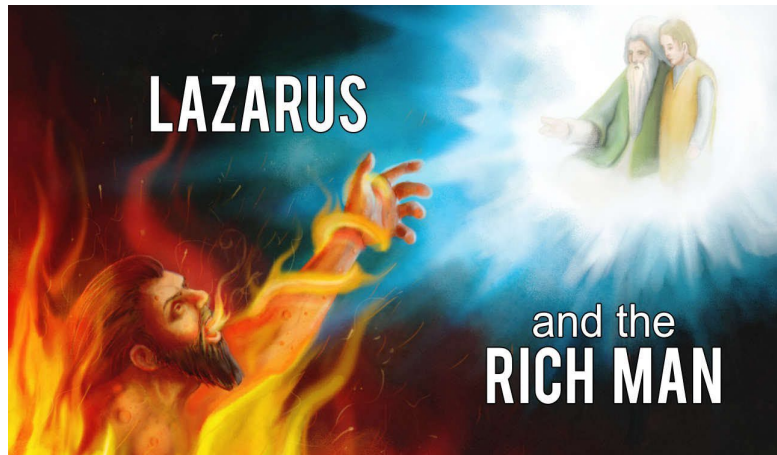
**27** And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house—

**28** for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’

**29** But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’

**30** And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’

**31** He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’”



**Insight:** Based on the context of where this parable of the rich man and Lazarus is found, it is clear that Jesus is telling this parable to the Pharisees who are like the rich man.

Jesus has just been warning them about loving money, in Luke 16:13-15. In addition, Jesus contrasts their love of money to loving God, making the statement that the truth is that God's law is more permanent than even heaven and earth. It is for this reason, of illustrating these two points in a story, that Jesus tells this parable of the rich man and Lazarus.

1. What does the parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus teach about the use of wealth?
  - Wealth should be used solely for personal enjoyment.
  - Wealth has no impact on one's afterlife.
  - Wealth should be shared with those in need.
  - Wealth is a sign of divine favor.
2. The Rich Man's request for Lazarus to warn his brothers is denied because:
  - Lazarus cannot leave the afterlife.
  - It is believed they would not listen even if someone rose from the dead.
  - The Rich Man's brothers were already righteous.
  - Lazarus was not known to the Rich Man's family.
3. True or False: The parable implies that earthly wealth will guarantee a favorable position in the afterlife. \_\_\_\_\_
4. True or False: The story suggests that once in the afterlife, the fortunes of the rich and the poor can be reversed. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The parable demonstrates that compassion and \_\_\_\_\_ are essential virtues that transcend earthly life.
6. The fate of the Rich Man and Lazarus illustrates the concept of divine \_\_\_\_\_, emphasizing that actions on earth have consequences in the afterlife.
7. According to the parable, the \_\_\_\_\_ between the rich and the poor in life can lead to profound reversals in the afterlife.
8. The refusal to allow Lazarus to return from the dead to warn the Rich Man's brothers

highlights the importance of \_\_\_\_\_ to divine warnings and the scriptures.

9. The rich man received his rewards on \_\_\_\_\_.

10. The rich man wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ his brothers.

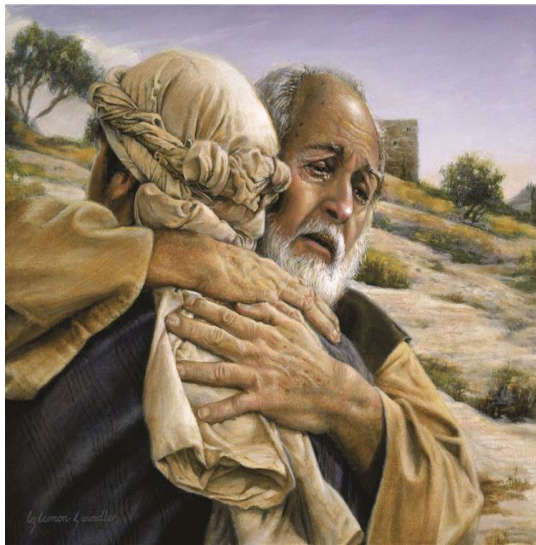
## Lesson Six

### The Parable of the Prodigal Son

**Luke 15:11–32 (ESV)**

**11** And he said, “There was a man who had two sons.

**12** And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them.



**13** Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living.

**14** And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need.

**15** So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs.

**16** And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

**17** “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger!

**18** I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.

**19** I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.’”

**20** And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

**21** And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

**22** But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet.

**23** And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate.

**24** For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

25 “Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing.

26 And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant.

27 And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’

28 But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him,

29 but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends.

30 But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’

31 And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.

32 It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’ ”

**Insight:** The story of the prodigal son is a picture of God's love for us as His children. God's love for us does not depend on our faithfulness; it is unconditional. He loved us while we were still sinners. Though we are demanding and do not remain faithful, God is still our faithful and loving Father.

1. What does the father’s reaction to the return of the prodigal son teach us about forgiveness?

- Forgiveness should be conditional.
- Forgiveness is not necessary for reconciliation.
- Forgiveness should be unconditional and freely given.
- Forgiveness only comes with restitution.

2. Is the older son’s resentment towards his brother justified?

- Yes, because the older son stayed and fulfilled his duties.
- No, because jealousy should never be justified.
- Yes, but he should still celebrate his brother’s return.
- No, because forgiveness is paramount in family dynamics.



3. True or False: The journey of the prodigal son illustrates that hitting rock bottom is essential for personal growth. \_\_\_\_\_
4. True or False: The parable suggests that an individual's worth is determined solely by their economic contributions. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The father in the parable of the Prodigal Son demonstrates \_\_\_\_\_ love by welcoming his younger son back without conditions.
6. The parable addresses the theme of \_\_\_\_\_ within the context of family and society, as seen through the older son's reaction to his brother's return.
7. The Prodigal Son's story is a powerful illustration of personal \_\_\_\_\_ and the possibility of changing one's life direction.
10. The prodigal son \_\_\_\_\_ himself out.
11. The prodigal son \_\_\_\_\_ against his father and heaven.
12. The prodigal son did not feel \_\_\_\_\_ to be called a son.
13. The father \_\_\_\_\_ at his son's return.

## Lesson Seven

### Parable of The Good Samaritan

**Luke 10:25–37 (ESV)**

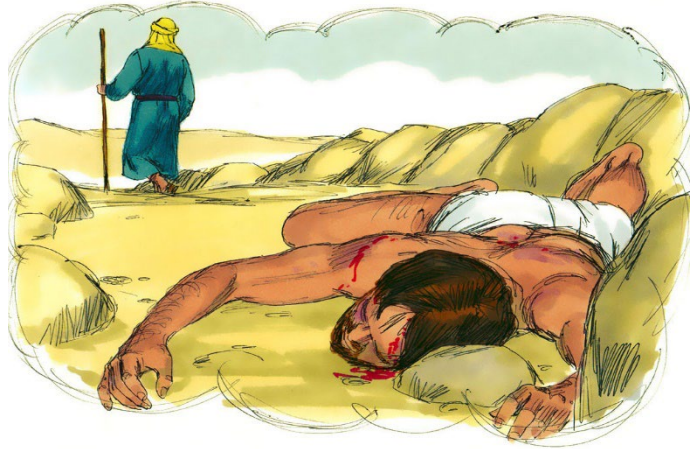
**25** And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

**26** He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?”

**27** And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”

**28** And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.”

**29** But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”



**30** Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead.

**31** Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side.

**32** So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

**33** But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion.

**34** He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him.

**35** And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’

**36** Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?”

**37** He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”

**Insight:** The Bible story of the Good Samaritan is a parable that demonstrates how we should “love our neighbors as ourselves.” When others need our help the most, like the man beaten by robbers on the road, our love for neighbors is truly tested. Jesus instructs us to be like the Good Samaritan, helping others in times of suffering, and not the Priest and Levite who neglected their neighbor.

1. What prompts Jesus to tell the Parable of the Good Samaritan?

- A question about how to inherit eternal life.
- A discussion on the laws of Moses.
- A lawyer’s question about who is considered one’s neighbor.
- A debate about the merits of Samaritans versus Jews.

2. Why did the priest and the Levite avoid the injured man in the parable?

- A) They did not see him.
- B) They were afraid of being robbed themselves.
- C) They believed touching a dead body would make them ceremonially unclean.
- D) They were late for religious services.

3. True or False: The Samaritan uses his own resources to care for the injured man. \_\_\_\_\_

4. True or False: The Parable of the Good Samaritan teaches that one’s neighbor is defined by geographical proximity. \_\_\_\_\_

5. The Good Samaritan showed \_\_\_\_\_ by caring for someone who was culturally considered to be an enemy.

6. Unlike the priest and the Levite, the Samaritan took \_\_\_\_\_ action to help the injured man.

7. Jesus concludes the parable by instructing to Go and do likewise; which means to show \_\_\_\_\_ to everyone, regardless of their background or status.

8. The actions of the Good Samaritan contrast with the priest and the Levite, highlighting that true neighborliness transcends \_\_\_\_\_ boundaries.

9. The lawyers desired to \_\_\_\_\_ himself to Jesus.

10. The sick man had been \_\_\_\_\_ by the priest and the Levite.
11. The lawyer was interested in inheriting \_\_\_\_\_.
12. We are to love our neighbor as we \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves.
13. Jesus asked the lawyer what was written in the \_\_\_\_\_.
14. We should show \_\_\_\_\_ to people.
15. The innkeeper was asked to \_\_\_\_\_ of the wounded man.

## Lesson Eight

### Parable of the Talents

**Matthew 25:14–24 (ESV)**

**14** “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property.

**15** To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

**16** He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more.

**17** So also he who had the two talents made two talents more.



**18** But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money.

**19** Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

**20** And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’

**21** His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’

**22** And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’

**23** His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’

**24** He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed,

**25** so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’

**26** But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed?

**27** Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest.

**28** So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents.

**29** For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.

**30** And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

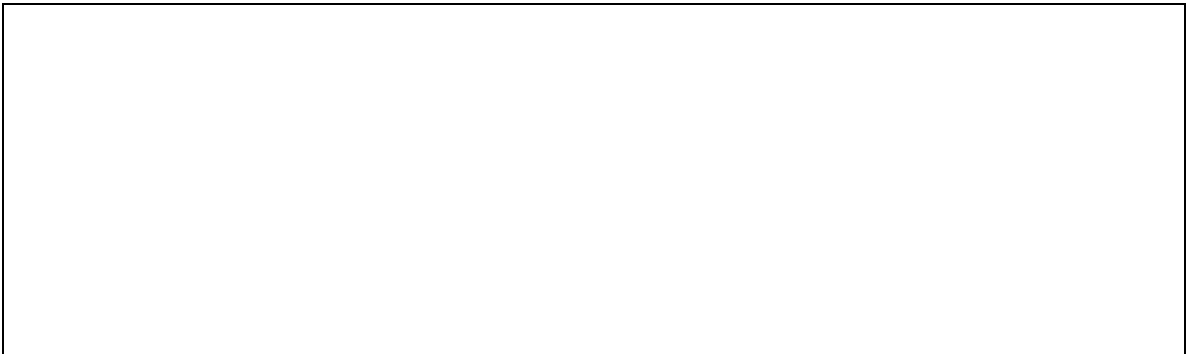
**Insight:** This parable is interpreted as a lesson about the importance of wisely using one's God-given talents and resources and not squandering them out of fear or complacency. It emphasizes the idea that those who are faithful and responsible in using what they've been given will be rewarded, while those who are negligent or fearful will face consequences.

1. What does the talents represent in this parable?

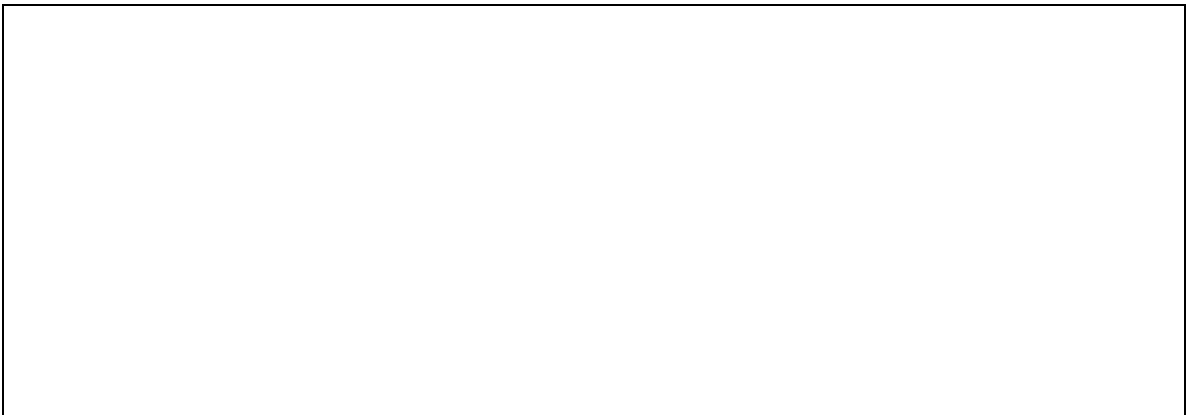
2. How did the servant with five talents demonstrate responsibility?

3. What was the master's reaction towards servants who used their talents wisely?

4. What does the parable imply about individual gifts and capabilities?



5. What does the distribution of different amounts of talents to the servants signify?



6. What happened to the servant who buried the one talent he received?



7. What does the biblical narrative emphasize about managing blessings?

8. What did the servant who received two talents do with them?

9. What was the consequence faced by the servant who avoided taking risks?

10. What is necessary for effective resource management?


11. What lesson can be learned from the Parable of the Talents?



12. What lesson does the parable teach about growth and courage?



13. What talents are God trusting you with?



14. Have you invested the talents that God has entrusted into you? Answer how or why not.



## Lesson Nine

### The Parable of the Wedding Feast

**Matthew 22:1–14 (ESV)**

**1** And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying,

**2** “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son,

**3** and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come.

**4** Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.”’

**5** But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business,

**6** while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them.

**7** The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

**8** Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy.

**9** Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.’

**10** And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.

**11** “But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment.

**12** And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless.

**13** Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

**14** For many are called, but few are chosen.”



**Insight:** In its context it is a parable that rebukes the Pharisees for rejecting Jesus and the offer of salvation. And it prophetically shows that it will lead to judgement upon Israel and salvation to the Gentiles. It also shows that people must come to the wedding according to the King's rules, not theirs. This was another rebuke to the Pharisees that saw their own righteousness and ideas as superior and more than enough to get them to the Wedding feast.

1. Who does the king represent in the parable?
  - The Jews
  - The Gentiles
  - God
  - Jesus
  
2. Who do the servants represent in the parable?
  - The Jews
  - The Gentiles
  - The prophets
  - Sinners
  
3. The king then sent more servants out to the streets to find everyone they could, both good and bad, to fill the wedding hall. Who did these "substitute" guests represent?
  - The Jews
  - The Gentiles
  - The prophets
  - Sinners
  
4. Speaking in parables in this text, what did Jesus compare the kingdom of heaven to?
  - A vineyard that was overrun with weeds
  - A certain king who arranged a marriage for his son
  - A certain rich man that had a prodigal son
  
5. What was the response of those who were invited to the wedding?
  - Some could not find the wedding clothes
  - They were not willing to come
  - They were hurrying to come

6. What was the second response initially to his invitation?
  - They made light of it and went their ways
  - They repented and asked forgiveness
  - They sent substitute footmen
7. What did the rest do to the servants?
  - They hired some and sent some home.
  - They received them as servants of the Most High.
  - They seized them, treated them spitefully, and killed them.
8. What did the king do when he heard that?
  - He sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city.
  - He decided to forget about the feast.
  - He finally sent his son who he knew would be respected.
9. Then who were gathered from the highways and invited to the wedding?
  - All whom they found, both bad and good
  - Those that looked the best and bowed down to the king
  - Only the good were selected to come
10. Who was bound, taken away, and cast into outer darkness?
  - No one; all had been invited and hence, all were welcome.
  - The one who did not show good manners
  - A man who did not have on a wedding garment
11. What is the kingdom of God likened to?
  - It was like a king who prepared a wedding feast for his son.
  - It was like a man who was on a journey to a place far away.
  - It was like a fig tree planted at the riverside.
12. What did the king offer to those who came?
  - Money
  - Clothes
  - Food

13. Who showed up to the party at first?

- Everyone he invited
- More servants
- No one

14. Did the servants obey the king's commands?

- No
- Yes
- They forgot

12. Who does the son represent

- God
- Us
- Jesus