

As Jesus taught: Teaching about life.

Week 1

Parables: an introduction

Parables are stories used to illustrate a point about life.

Parable= parabola= a placing of one thing by the side of another.

The word - PARABLE comes from Gr. *parabole*, which means *likeness*). Derived from the Greek verb *paraballo*, composed of the preposition *para* meaning "beside" and the verb *ballo*, "to cast." A parable is thus a comparison of two objects for the purpose of teaching, usually in the form of a story.

What we will do is put things parallel to each other. Our experiences next to the parables and in reverse put the parables next to our lives.

We will look for ways to let the bible impact our lives with the integrity of the authors intent.

Here are a couple of things from a respected scholar on parables for you to think about:

"The parables aim to persuade not to inform" (Thuren)

"Jesus seldom teaches his audiences anything new by his parables. Instead, most parables build on something the audience already knows and accepts or would assess as reasonable." (Thuren)

Here are someone else's guidelines for looking at Parables:

1. Respect the authors cut, add nothing.
2. Let the audience decide the message
3. Look for narrative conventions
4. Look for purpose

How does this apply to us?

1. Read the bible and let it do the talking not what you think it says.
2. Let people respond personally and without criticism
3. Look at how it is written
4. What does God want us to get out of this?

First parables or the first things put down alongside our life.
(First mention of parable in Luke.)

Luke 4:23

Jesus said to them, "Surely you will quote this proverb to me: 'Physician, heal yourself!' And you will tell me, 'Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.'"

What part is parable? Physician heal yourself paralleled with do the miracles you did other places.

24. "Truly I tell you," he continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown

25. I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land.

26. Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon.

27. And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian."

What is parable? No prophet is accepted in his hometown.

What is it laid next to? (Paralleled with) Elijah experience. Drought and sent to widow (not necessarily Jewish) same with Naaman not Jewish.

The assumption is that people aren't accepted as prophets in their own community.

Luke 5:31

31. Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.

32. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

What is parable? Not the healthy who need a doctor

What is it put next to? Called to minister to sinners not saved.

How do we respond to that information? (Hey does this affect the way we look at church?)

Look at this passage. It is a ganging up of the parabolic concepts.

Luke 6:39

39. He also told them this parable: "Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into a pit?

40. The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher.

41."Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?

42. How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,' when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

V39. Can the blind lead the blind? Logical answer is no

V40. The student is not above his teacher. Logical but the aim is to be like the teacher, now in paralleled – be like the teacher, don't think you are equal with the teacher- your ignorance will be damaging.

V41. Speck in your eye. Don't criticize someone for something you may be ignoring in yourself.

A quick look at the progression of the parables here.

V42. The big slap. Deal with your issues before trying to "deal" with others.

Blind leading blind, not above the teacher, speck in your own eye. Notice it is about how we treat others and how we impart respect.

Ok, we've seen some thought processes about parables.