



The Parables

Sundays
Year 1 Book 3

Jr. High School Class
by Charles Willis

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Matthew 13:3–23; Mark 4:2–20; Luke 8:4–15

1. Define “parable.”
2. Why did Jesus teach in Parables (Matt. 13:10–15)?
3. Why did Jesus explain parables to the apostles (Matt. 13:16–18)?
4. What does the “seed” represent? (compare this with 1 Peter 1:23)
5. Where was the sower sowing? What does this represent?
6. The four soils in the parable represent the hearts of people. Identify the four hearts described.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
7. For each of the four types of heart identified in question 6, tell what obstacles they faced, and what the results were.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
8. What is fruit referring to (Matt. 13:23)? Does God expect every Christian to bear the same amount of fruit?
9. What does this parable tell us about teaching others and making disciples of others?

Matthew 25:1–13

The setting for the parable is of a typical “game” played by the unmarried friends and the newly weds. They would stay up late waiting for the bridegroom to come to the wedding feast. If they did not go in to the party with him, they were not allowed to go in afterward. So they had to stay up and watch for he would try to arrive when they were not expecting him.

1. What made five of the women foolish and five prudent (wise)?

2. Who is represented by:
 - A. The foolish women
 - B. The prudent (wise) women
 - C. The Bridegroom (or as we say, “groom”)
3. What application does Jesus make of this parable (25:13)?

4. Define “alert” (25:25).
5. What is revealed about the day of Christ’s return?
 - A. Mark 13:32
 - B. 2 Peter 3:10
 - C. 1 Thessalonians 4:16–18
6. What are believers taught in regard to Christ’s return?
 - A. Luke 12:35–40
 - B. 1 Thessalonians 5:1–6
 - C. Mark 13:33–37
 - D. 2 Peter 3:11–14

REVIEW

7. What is a parable?
8. Why did Jesus teach in parables?
9. Which parable do you find most memorable and easy to understand?

The Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31, 33)

1. What is the size of a mustard seed?

2. How does this seed compare to the kingdom of heaven?

3. What does this mean about the power of the gospel?

The Leaven (Matthew 13:31–33)

4. Define “leaven.”

5. What does it mean the woman “hid” the leaven in flour?

6. What is this teaching about the growth of the Kingdom?

The Hidden Treasure (Matthew 13:44)

7. What did the man do who found a hidden treasure?

8. What does this tell us about the value of the Kingdom?

The Pearl of Great Price (Matthew 13:45–46)

9. What did the man do who was looking for the expensive pearl and found it?

10. What does this tell us about the value of the Kingdom?

11. From these last two parables, what can we know about how people learn the gospel?

The Lost Sheep and Lost Coin (Luke 15:1–10)

1. What was the importance of what had been lost?
2. What was God's attitude toward the lost?
3. What are these two parables really about?

The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11–32)

4. Who do the following characters in the parable represent?
 - A. The Father
 - B. The Younger Son
 - C. The Older Son
5. How does the younger son disrespect his father?
6. What happened while the younger son was in the "far country?"
7. What does it mean "he came to his senses" (Luke 15:17)?
8. Upon his return, how does the younger son show respect for his father?
9. What can be learned about the father's interest in the younger son?
10. How does the older son disrespect his father?

Thought Question

11. Should the older son have been upset at the younger son or the father? How do we apply this to the people in the Lord's church?

Matthew 13:24–30

1. What is a "tare"? Try using a Bible Dictionary. With parental approval, look at www.biblestudytools.com/dictionaries/eastons-bible-dictionary/tares.html
2. What would happen to the tares at the harvest?
3. What would happen to the wheat?
4. From Jesus' explanation of the parable (Matthew 13:36–43) identify:
 - A. Who sowed the good seed? Who is the good seed?
 - B. Who sowed the tares? Who are the tares?
 - C. Who are the reapers?
 - D. What is the "fire" and the "barn" (13:30, 41–43)?

Matthew 13:47–50 (a similar message as the parable of the Tares)

5. What kind of fish were separated?
6. What will the angels do?

Thought Questions

7. What is being taught in both of these parables in that the good and bad were mixed? Read 1 Timothy 5:24.
8. Can we hide our sin from God (Jeremiah 16:17; Luke 12:1–2; Hebrews 4:12–13)? Why do we try to do this?

Luke 16:19–31

1. Describe how the rich man and Lazarus both lived in this life (16:19–21).
2. Where did the rich man and Lazarus find themselves after they died?
3. Describe the rich man's "torment" and "agony."
4. Why couldn't the rich man go to Abraham?
5. After death what could be done to change the rich man's status?
6. What has been given to cause people to not want to go to the torments the rich man experienced (16: 27–29)?
7. What addition sign did the rich man want for his brothers (16:30–31)?
 - A. Why was this denied?
 - B. How does this relate to Jesus and our souls?
8. What do we learn about God's judgment in connection with the Law He has given?

The Wicked Vine Growers (Matthew 21:33–45)

1. The Parable is about God's dealing with the Jews. Please identify who is represented by:
 - A. The householder who planted the vineyard.
 - B. The Vineyard.
 - C. The "husbandmen" who were placed over the vineyard.
 - D. The servants sent again and again.
 - E. The son who was cast out and killed.
2. How does this parable show the patience of God?
3. What can we learn from this about having a proper attitude?

The Laborers in the Vineyard (Matthew 20:1–16)

4. This parable has similar imagery as the Wicked Vine Growers. Identify who is represented by:
 - A. The landowner.
 - B. The first laborers.
 - C. The later (or last) laborers.
5. What can we learn about God (20:13–15)?
6. What do you see as the main point of this parable?

Luke 10:25–37

1. Why was the lawyer asking a question (10:29)?
2. Who were the people in this parable? Tell what you know about them.
 - A. A Priest (10:31)
 - B. A Levite (10:32)
 - C. A Samaritan (10:33)
3. Make a list of the things the Samaritan did for the injured man .
4. What is Jesus' point (or conclusion) to this parable?
5. What does this parable teach us about the compassion we should have (see also Matthew 5:7, Colossians 3:12; Luke 6:36)?

Luke 12:13–21

1. Explain the statement in Luke 12:13. What did this man want from his brother? How does this relate to Jesus' parable?
2. What does Jesus say is important in this life (12:15)?
3. Why is the rich man said to be a fool (12:17–19)? The world would say such things were wise.
4. In what way does Jesus say the wise will be rich (12:21)?
5. How does our society demonstrate many have greed in their heart?
6. What are the dangers of wealth (1 Timothy 6:9–10)?
7. What should be the attitude of the wealthy (1 Timothy 6:17–19)?
8. What should be the attitude of the believer (Matthew 6:19-21)? How do we do this?

The Great Wedding (Matthew 22:1–14)

- Identify who is represented by:
 - The King
 - The King's Son
 - The slaves (subjects)
 - Those invited
- What can we learn about God from this parable?
- At a marriage celebration guests were given a set of fancy clothes to wear. Why was the King upset at finding a guest not in wedding clothes?
- What application to ourselves should we get from 22:13–14?

The Great Supper (Luke 14:15–24)

- Similar imagery is found in this parable also speaking of a marriage festival. What does 14:15 say is the reason for this parable?
- What excuses are offered for not coming to the feast?
- What excuses do men offer today for rejecting the gospel of Jesus Christ?
- What is Jesus' conclusion and teaching for us in 14:24?

Friend at Midnight (Luke 11:5–13)

- Why did the man wake his friend at midnight?
- Why did the man help his friend?

The Persistent Widow (Luke 18:1)

- What is Jesus' point in this parable?
- Why did the widow go again and again to the judge?
- How do we not lose heart?
- In these first two parables, is Jesus teaching we will always get what we request? (Compare with 2 Corinthians 12:7–9; James 1:6–7; Matthew 26:39.)

The Tower and the King (Luke 14:28–33)

- What is the point of these two short parables?
- What application is made (14:33)?
- What must we count before becoming a Christian?
 - Matthew 16:24
 - John 8:31
 - John 15:18
 - Matthew 10:34–39

The Dishonest Steward (Luke 16:1–13)

1. When the steward (or manager) was about to lose his position, what effect did this have on him? How much repentance is seen?
2. Why did he have the debtors lie about the amounts they owed (16:3-7)?
3. What is revealed about the attitude of the master? What would we expect his behavior and attitude to be toward this steward?

16:8 becomes key to our understanding of the parable. Jesus paints this picture of evil to present a comparison between the “*sons of this age*” and the “*sons of light*”.

4. Who are the “*sons of this age*”? How do they behave?
5. Who are the “*sons of light*”? How do they behave?
6. What point is Jesus making in the comparison (16:8-9)?

Two Builders (Matthew 7:21–29)

7. Describe the two types of people (built on the sand, built on the rock).
8. Why do we not obey and do what we have heard?
9. What point is being made, especially when looking at 7:21–23?

The Pharisee and Publican (Luke 18:9–14)

1. What was a Pharisee? (If needed, ask parents for help.)
2. What was a Publican? (If needed, ask parents for help.)
3. To whom did the Pharisee pray?
4. Why was the Publican’s prayer accepted?
5. Compare this parable to James 4:6–10. What similar things are taught in both?
6. Explain Jesus’ teaching about this in Matthew 23:11–12.

The Two Sons (Matthew 21:28–32)

7. Which was the righteous son?
8. Which was the rebellious son?
9. What causes people to have a change of heart about obedience?
10. Who did Jesus apply this parable to (21:31–32)?
11. What can we apply to ourselves from this parable?