

# UNVEILING THE KINGDOM

## THE PARABLES OF JESUS

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## An Introduction to Parables

**2 Timothy 3:16** “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, **17** so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

**Isaiah 55:10** “As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, **11** so is my word [THE BIBLE] that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”

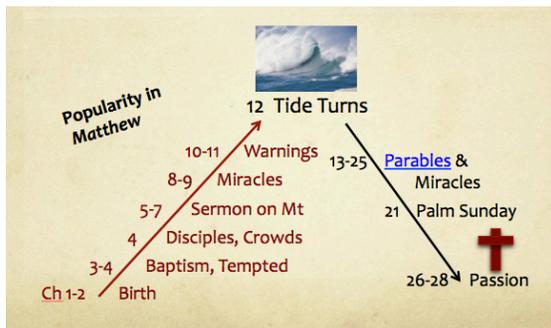
### WHAT is a parable?

Stories drawn from everyday life  
to conceal and reveal  
spiritual truth  
about the kingdom of God

### WHO told parables in the Bible?

### WHERE are the parables?

### WHEN did Jesus tell parables?



### Turning Point

1. Healing people.
2. On the Sabbath.
3. Claiming equality with God.

So they begin conspiring to destroy Jesus: Matt 12:14, Mark 3:6, Luke 6:11, John 5:16,18.

### WHY use parables?

**Matthew 13:11** 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.

<sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> **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. <sup>14</sup> 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.”

<sup>15</sup> 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.’

<sup>16</sup> But **blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear.**

1) Disciples

2) Onlookers

a. God has not opened their eyes.

**1 Cor 1:18** **“For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.** <sup>19</sup> For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” <sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> **For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom,** <sup>23</sup> **but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,** <sup>24</sup> **but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”**

b. It's not yet time for Jesus to die.

**John 7:30, 8:20** “So they were seeking to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his **hour had not yet come.**”

c. These truths are helpful and healthy in the context of a relationship with Jesus Christ.

**Hosea 6:6** “For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.”

**1 Samuel 15:22** “And Samuel said,  
‘Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices,  
as in obeying the voice of the LORD?  
Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,  
and **to listen** than the fat of rams.’

**Matt 23:37** Jesus says “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!”

*Reformation Study Bible:* “Jesus’ reason for teaching so cryptically about his messianic role, his atonement, resurrection, and future reign, was partly that only events could make these things clear, and partly that He was calling people to be his disciples through His personal impact on them, and then teaching them about Himself within that relationship, rather than offering detailed theological instruction to the uncommitted” (notes from Matt 8).

“Most of Jesus’ parables are clear, but they also contain a depth of meaning that only one with a right relationship to Jesus can comprehend...The ungodly miss this deeper meaning because their lack of a proper relationship with God has darkened their thoughts and hearts (Rom 1:21)...To those who have a relationship with Jesus, parables deepen understanding and foster relationship, but to those who do not, parables increase confusion and ignorance. Thus the function of parables is both to enlighten and conceal” (notes on 13:3,12).

### **HOW should we interpret the parables?**

1. Study how Jesus himself interpreted the parables.

Next week = Parable of the Sower (13:1-9, 18-23)

Following week = Parable of the Weeds (13:24-30, 36-43)

2. With the rest of the Bible at our fingertips.

3. Guided by the Holy Spirit:

**1 Corinthians 2:** Wisdom from the Spirit

<sup>6</sup> Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. <sup>7</sup> But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. <sup>8</sup> None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup> But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the heart of man imagined,  
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

<sup>10</sup> these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup> For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

<sup>12</sup> Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

<sup>13</sup> And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

<sup>14</sup> The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. <sup>15</sup> The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. <sup>16</sup> “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” **But we have the mind of Christ.**

TO FIND:

1. Common Grace
2. Gospel Insights

**HOW to apply them?**

**Psalm 139:23** “Search me, God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.

<sup>24</sup> See if there is any offensive way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.”

“The Kingdom of Heaven is like...” (Matthew 13:10, 24, 31, 33, 44, 45, 47)

On the Kingdom of God from *Unfinished* by Rich Stearns

In the gospel accounts Jesus spoke without ceasing about the kingdom of God or the kingdom of heaven. You could say he was almost obsessed with this single topic. It is mentioned more than 125 times in the New Testament, and most of the mentions are by Jesus himself. If you picked up your Bible and read just the four Gospels, looking only for references to the coming kingdom, you would come to perhaps a surprising conclusion: the central mission of Jesus' incarnation was to launch God's kingdom on earth.

In sermon after sermon, parable after parable, Jesus cast a breathtaking vision of this kingdom to everyone who would listen. It was Jesus' vision of a new way of living, a new dream for human society that turned the values of the world upside down. Men and women would live under God's authority and be governed by God's rules. It was to be a kingdom without borders, a kingdom within kingdoms, which would survive, grow, and flourish apart from the rise and fall of human kingdoms.

Every citizen of this new kingdom would be equally loved and valued: rich or poor, slave or free, Jew or Gentile, male or female, black or white. The rich would share with the poor; the healthy would care for the sick; the strong would protect the weak. His kingdom would be characterized by the attributes and values of God himself: integrity, mercy, compassion, forgiveness, faithfulness, justice, and love. Jesus' followers would love their enemies, be generous with their money and possessions, live lives of integrity, and seek justice for all. It was not some pie-in-the-sky dream of a kingdom in the clouds; it was a concrete vision of communities of God's people established in every nation of the world. God's people living in God's way would be a blessing to their neighbors, resulting in people of all nations being drawn into God's expanding kingdom.

Jesus had come to fulfill the covenant that had been established with Abraham, that through Israel all nations would be blessed. The Messiah had come to provide open access to God's kingdom—one not based on land, politics, power, and dominion but a kingdom based on God's truth and God's values.

Just how central was the idea of the kingdom to Jesus' thinking? In Luke 4, after Jesus had performed several miracles, the people of Capernaum tried to get him to stay with them, but Jesus rebuked them, saying, "I must **proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God** to the other towns also, *because that is why I was sent*" (**Luke 4:43**, emphasis mine).

Did you catch that? Jesus was sent to "proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God."

I will write much more about the kingdom of God and the invitation of God in chapters 5 through 7, but let me point you now to two more references. The first is from Acts 1: "After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and **spoke about the kingdom of God**" (**Acts 1:3** emphasis mine).

Jesus had risen from the dead and had just forty days left with his disciples, but the key thing he wanted to speak to them about was the kingdom of God. And then, as we saw in the last chapter, before Jesus left, he commissioned his followers to take this good news of the kingdom of God to the whole world and to make it a reality. He essentially said, "Go, do what I've told you to do, teach what I've

taught you to teach, act as I've taught you to act, and love as I've shown you to love.  
**Build my kingdom in all the nations.** This is what you were made to do" (Matt. 28, author's paraphrase).

## **The Sower**

Mark 4:1-20

September 2016

### **Setting the Scene**

<sup>1</sup>Again he began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land.

### **Capernaum, 1st Century (28-30 AD)**

### **What was going on?**

### **The Parable of the Sower**

<sup>3</sup>“Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow.<sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. <sup>5</sup>Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup>And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. <sup>8</sup>And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.”

### **Familiar and Unfamiliar**

#### **Listen!**

<sup>9</sup>And he said, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

#### **Listen – it’s opposite**

#### **Listen – it’s entrance**

### **Hearing Problems**

#### **Too Hard to Listen**

<sup>15</sup>And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them.

Jeremiah 31:27; Ezekiel 36:8-9; Isaiah 55:10-11

### **Too Shallow to Listen**

<sup>16</sup> And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. <sup>17</sup> And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away.

“A Mourner’s Thoughts on Sickness, Sorrow, Pain and Death” by Scott Sauls  
(scottsauls.com)

John 16:33

### **Too Distracted to Listen**

<sup>18</sup> And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, <sup>19</sup> but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

“Hello, I Am an Idol” by Nicholas McDonald  
(thegospelcoalition.org/article/hello-i-am-an-idol)

Psalm 115:4-8

### **Fruit**

<sup>20</sup> But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.”

John 15:1-11

### **Your Soil**

Psalm 51

### **The Sower**

Philippians 1:6

## **The Parable of the Weeds**

### **Matthew 13: 24-30 (ESV)**

He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. 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?’ 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?’ But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. 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.”’

### **Matthew 13:36-43 (ESV)**

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

## Seeds

- Good
- Sons of the Kingdom

**1 John 1:12-13** But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born not of flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

“God loves us as we are not as we should be.” Brennan Manning

- Intimate relationship with the sower
- Purposefully sown into the world

**Ephesians 2:10** We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them

- Sown to advance the kingdom of heaven on earth

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/singing-man-story-behind-viral-video-of-ben-ellis>

## Weeds

- Sowed by the devil
- Sons of the enemy
- Sown in secret

What is our response?

- Awareness

**John 10:10** The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

Are there lies I am believing right now?

- Word of God

Ephesians 6:10-19 The Whole Armor of God

- Confident trust in the greater power of God to establish his kingdom

- Prayer

**1Timothy 2:1-3** (paraphrase) First of all, then, I urge that supplications, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made for all people, for the Kings and all who are in high positions. This is good and pleasing to the Lord.

- Patience

1 John 3:8... the reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

- Heavenly hope

### **Prayer of Saint Francis**

"Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
Where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
To be consoled as to console,  
To be understood as to understand,  
To be loved as to love;  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
It is in dying to self that we are born to eternal life."



## **Matthew 13:44-46 The Parable of the Treasure and the Pearl** *Outline*

### **1) The Kingdom is worth everything**

*The man and the merchant apprehended the preciousness of the Kingdom*

Hebrews 12:28 It is unshakeable

1 Peter 1:4 It is incorruptible and unfading

Romans 14:17 It is righteousness, peace, and joy

Proverbs 4:18

2 Corinthians 3:18

Ezekiel 47

***Like the man and the merchant in this parable, By God's Grace, Have you apprehended the preciousness and the worth of this Kingdom?***

John 4:7-10

### **2) The Kingdom costs everything**

*The man and the merchant went "all in"*

Luke 21:4

This is where we come face to face with a dangerous reality. We *do* have to give up everything we have to follow Jesus. We *do* have to love him in a way that makes our closest relationships in this world look like hate. And it is entirely possible that he *will* tell us to sell everything we have and give it to the poor. But we don't want to believe it. We are afraid of what it might mean for our lives. So we rationalize these passages away. "Jesus wouldn't really tell us not to bury our father or say good-bye to our family. Jesus didn't literally mean to sell all we have and give it to the poor. What Jesus really meant was..."

And this is where we need to pause. Because we are starting to redefine Christianity. We are giving in to the dangerous temptation to take the Jesus of the Bible and twist him into a version of Jesus we are more comfortable with. We are molding Jesus into our image. He is beginning to look a lot like us, because after all, that is whom we are most comfortable with. And the danger now is that when we gather in our church buildings to sing and lift up our hands in worship, we may not actually be worshiping the Jesus of the Bible. Instead we may be worshiping ourselves. -- **David Platt, Radical**

Luke 9:57, 60, 61  
Mark 10:17-31

### **Jesus went "ALL IN"**

He *endured!* (Heb. 12:2)

He *emptied!* (Phil. 2:7)

He *entrusted!* (1 Peter 2:23)

Mark 10:29

**If it was true that surrendering everything meant gaining everything-  
and it is true- Where in your life can you invite the King to establish full  
reign, through surrender?**

*Holy Spirit, I want to go ALL IN. In what areas of my life can I ask you to remove the  
obstacles between me and the deep JOY which comes through Jesus' reign in my life?*

2 Chronicles 16:9

### **3) This is the happiest trade-off in the universe.**

*"with joy": perhaps the two most important words in the verse*

Hebrews 12:1-2

It is not a morally defective thing to be sustained in the marathon of life by the joy of triumph at the end. The reward of seeing God and being free from all sin is the greatest incentive of all. So if it seems that there are going to be some temporary losses when you run this race with Jesus, you are right. That is why Jesus said to count the cost (Luke 14:25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33) before you sign on. But the marathon of the Christian life is not **mainly loss**. It is **mainly gain**. "For the joy that was set before him he endured the cross." It is only a matter of timing. **If you see things with the eyes of God, there is a vapor's breath of loss and pain, and then everlasting joy!**

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take  
The clouds ye so much dread  
Are big with mercy, and shall break  
In blessings on your head  
(William Cowper)

Psalm 34:5

## **The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant...and so much more!**

### **Matthew 18: 15-17**

Practices for redemption, reconciliation and restoration in the Body of Christ.

### **Scriptures to encourage you as pursue growth as a “forgiver” who has been “forgiven much.”**

Philippians 2:3; 5-11

- Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility, consider others better than yourselves.
- Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus...  
Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing,  
Taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness/  
And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross!  
Therefore, God exalted Him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth.  
And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

Ephesians 4: 1-2; 15-16; 31-32

- ...I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.
- Speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him, who is the head, that is, Christ. From him, the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.
- Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 5: 1-2; 8-10; 15-17; 19-21

- Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
- For you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists of all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord.

- Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise, but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is...
- Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the father for everything, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Submit to one another out of reverence to Christ.

Colossians 1:6; 12-13

- All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God’s grace in all its truth.
- [And I keep on] Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

NOTES:

## THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Greatest Commandment: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.

The second Greatest Commandment: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

QUESTION: WHO IN THE WORLD IS THAT????

### I. THREE PICTURES OF LIFE

A. 1ST PICTURE: The real world in which we live -- full of suffering, and the place we find our neighbor

B. 2ND PICTURE: The real condition of our hearts.....SELFISH!

C. 3RD PICTURE: The beautiful picture of the Good Samaritan

## II. A PATTERN FOR LOVE

A. Never ask about the worth of your neighbor.

B. Don't ever avoid the work involved in loving your neighbor.

C. Always act in wisdom.

CONCLUSION:

## The Friend at Midnight, Luke 11:1-13

Luke 11:1-13 (ESV)

Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." And he said to them, "When you pray, say:

"Father, hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Give us each day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our sins,  
for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.  
And lead us not into temptation."

And he said to them, "Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; and he will answer from within, 'Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything'? I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence[c] he will rise and give him whatever he needs. And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

When Jesus prays

- He is drawing near to his Father.
- Jesus is demonstrating his dependence on His heavenly Father.

"The Son can do nothing of his own accord" (John 5:19)

- Jesus is showing his submission and obedience to the Father

"I can do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me" (John 8:28).

"The Father who sent me has himself given me what to say to speak" (John 12:49)

- Jesus is interceding for his disciples (John 17)

## The Lord's Prayer

Father

Hallowed by Your Name

Your Kingdom come

*A Praying Life*, Paul Miller: "What do I lose when I have a praying life? Control. Independence.

What do I gain? Friendship with God. A quiet heart. The living work of God in the hearts of those I love. The ability to roll back the tide of evil. Essentially, I lose my kingdom, I get his. I move from being an independent player to a dependent lover. I move from being an orphan to a child of God"

Give us our daily bread

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us

Lead us not into temptation

Hindrances to prayer

- Fear
- Doubt
- Shame
- Comparison

Paul Miller: Cures to Cynicism

- Trust in the good shepherd
- Recognize our need
- Learn to hope again
- Cultivating a childlike spirit
- Cultivating a thankful spirit
- Cultivating repentance

Romans 8:26, "The Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words."

Luke 7:26-50

<http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/10-questions-on-prayer-with-tim-keller>

Luke 11:37-12:12 = CONTEXT

Religious elite were...

- Greedy and wicked 11:39
- Neglecting justice and the love of God 11:42
- Loving privilege and honor among men 11:43
- Loading people with burdens 11:46
- Misleading the people 11:52
- Hypocrites 12:1

**Command #1**

- Fear God 12:5-7
- Before Men 12:4,9
- Depending on the Holy Spirit 12:12

Luke 12:13-15 = THE PROBLEM**Command #2**

- “Take care, and be on your guard
- Against all covetousness,
- For one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” (12:15)

Luke 12:16-21 = THE PARABLE

“The land of a rich man produced plentifully and he thought to himself, ‘What shall **I** do, for **I** have nowhere to store **my** crops?’ And he said, ‘**I** will do this: **I** will tear down **my** barns and build larger ones, and there **I** will store all **my** grain and **my** goods. And **I** will say to **my** soul, ‘**Soul, you** have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’”

What We See

1. Rich
2. Ambitious
3. Self-centered
4. Tired? Unhappy?

What God Sees

1. Fool
2. Visitor

**1 John 2:15** says, “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and **pride of possessions**—is not from the Father but is from the world. <sup>17</sup> **And the world is passing away** along with its desires, **but whoever does the will of God abides forever.**”

3. Owner
4. Miser

#### Luke 12:22-34: THE ANSWER

##### **Command #3**

- “Do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will wear,
- For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing” (12:22).

##### **Command #4**

- “Seek God’s kingdom,
- And these things will be added to you” (12:31).

##### Replacements

1. Do not fear man, Fear God! (v4-5)
2. Do not be defined by your possessions (v15), Sell your possessions (v33)!
3. Do not be rich toward self on earth, Be rich toward God in heaven (v21, 33-34)
4. “Do not seek what you are to eat...” (v29) “Instead seek God’s kingdom” (v31).

## The Persistent Widow- **Luke 18:1-8**

Recap: A Friend At Midnight

“Ask, and it will be given; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened.” (Luke 11:9)

“If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” (Luke 11:13)

Three main principles on prayer:

- 
- 
- 

Tim Keller, “We are to ask God for things with boldness and specificity, with honesty and diligence, yet with patient submission to God’s will and wise love.”

The Persistent Widow

Context- Luke 17:20-37

The main commands Jesus is trying to teach in this parable are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_!

Command #1

We are to do nothing without\_\_\_\_\_.

Prayer is pervasive in the Bible. In Genesis we see every one of the patriarchs\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ praying very directly to a personal God.

Hannah, mother of Samuel, is recorded in scripture as “pouring out her \_\_\_\_\_to the Lord, praying out of her anguish and grief.”

King \_\_\_\_\_ composed much of the Psalms, God’s inspired prayer book.

Jesus taught his disciples to \_\_\_\_\_, healed people with \_\_\_\_\_, called the temple a “house of \_\_\_\_\_” and cast out demons through \_\_\_\_\_. He prayed often and regularly with fervent cries and tears (Hebrews 5:7) and sometimes all night.

The early church was “devoted to \_\_\_\_\_” (Acts 2:42, 11:5, 12:5, and 12) and constantly in \_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 1:14)

Christians are taught that prayer should pervade their whole day and whole life- they should “pray without \_\_\_\_\_” (1 Thess. 5:17)

Tim Keller, “Prayer is awe, intimacy, struggle- yet the way to reality. There is nothing more important, or harder, or richer, or more life-altering. There is nothing so great as prayer.”

Command #2

Jesus says \_\_\_\_\_!

“Therefore we don’t lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.” (2 Corinthians 4:16)

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we don’t give up.” (Galatians 6:9)

“And for you brothers never tire of doing what is right.” (2 Thessalonians 3:13)

2 Characters in the story

Unjust Judge:

Widow:

This parable contrasts the corrupt judge with a just God.

Implication #1

God’s \_\_\_\_\_ is at work even in a corrupt \_\_\_\_\_. There is \_\_\_\_\_ in the midst of systemic injustice- that justice will be done!

Civil authorities serve by God’s authorization, whether they acknowledge it or not.

John 19:11 Jesus words to Pilate- "You would have no \_\_\_\_\_over me if it were not given from\_\_\_\_\_."

Romans 13:1 "Everyone must submit himself to governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by \_\_\_\_\_."

1 Peter 2:13 "Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every\_\_\_\_\_instituted by man."

Implication #2

Only \_\_\_\_\_can bring about justice in a \_\_\_\_\_world. This is why we must \_\_\_\_\_and \_\_\_\_\_!

God has called and used his children to pursue justice throughout the Bible.

Genesis 18:19 (Abraham)

2 Samuel 8:15 (David)

Psalm 82:3

Proverbs 8:20 (Solomon)

Isaiah 1:17 (Isaiah)

Micah 6:8 (Micah)

Matthew 12:18 (Jesus)

Tim Keller, "To do justice means to go to places where the fabric of shalom has been broken down, where the weaker members of society are falling through the fabric, and to repair it."

Where is God calling you and me to pursue justice?

Mother Teresa quotes:

"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."

"I cannot change the world, I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."

Where does the concern for the injustices in this world fit into your thoughts and life?

What is it like to be treated unfairly? What difference can an advocate make?

Is there margin in your life to pray for the poor, oppressed and needy? Are you moved to pray for injustice in our community, our city, our world?

Our faith will be tried. We wait; we pray for justice; we work for justice; we trust in the work of God. Our prayers bring in the kingdom of God in!

“Laborers in the Vineyard” outline  
*Matthew 20:1-16*

\*\*\*A look at the Context and Big Picture

Where do we see ourselves in this story?

1) We are often times the \_\_\_\_\_

What does Jesus say to the all-day workers? (verses 13, 14, 15)

**(def) Grumble:**

2) We are the \_\_\_\_\_

“So the last will be first, and the first will be last.” (verse 16)

PHILIPPIANS 2: 4 Let each of you <sup>n</sup>look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> <sup>o</sup>Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>1</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>p</sup>who, though he was in <sup>q</sup>the form of God, did not count equality with God <sup>r</sup>a thing to be grasped, <sup>2</sup> <sup>7</sup> but <sup>s</sup>emptied himself, by taking the form of a <sup>t</sup>servant, <sup>3</sup> <sup>u</sup>being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by <sup>v</sup>becoming obedient to the point of death, <sup>w</sup>even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> <sup>x</sup>Therefore <sup>y</sup>God has <sup>z</sup>highly exalted him and bestowed on him <sup>a</sup>the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus <sup>b</sup>every knee should bow, <sup>c</sup>in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and <sup>d</sup>every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is <sup>e</sup>Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**Faithful Is He who Has  
Promised**

Are you passing through a testing. Is your pillow wet with tears?  
Do you wonder what the reason, Why it seems God never hears?  
Why it is you have no answer To your oft, repeated plea,  
Why the heaven still is leaden As you wait on bended knee?

Do you wonder as you suffer, Whether God does understand,  
And if so, why He ignores you, Fails to hold you in His Hand?  
Do black doubts creep in, assail you, Fears without--and fears within,  
Till your brave heart almost falters And gives way to deadly sin?

All God's testings have a purpose, Someday you will see the light.  
All He asks is that you trust Him, Walk by faith and not by sight.  
Do not fear when doubts beset you, Just remember - He is near;  
He will never, never leave you, He will always, always hear.

Faithful is He who has promised, He will never let you fall,  
Daily will the strength be given Strength for each and strength for all.  
He will gladly share pain with you, He will gladly give you peace.  
Till your tired and weary body Finds its blessed, glad release.

When the darkened veil is lifted, Then, dear heart, you'll understand  
Why it is you had to suffer, Why you could not feel His hand  
Giving strength when it was needed, Giving power and peace within  
Giving joy thru tears and trial, Giving victory over sin.

So till then just keep on trusting, Thru the sunshine and the rain.

**Annie Johnson Flint**

**Heb. 10:23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)**

So many burdened lives along the way!  
My load seems lighter than the most I see,  
And oft I wonder if I could be brave,  
Patient and sweet if they were laid on me.  
But God has never said that He would give  
Another's grace without another's thorn;  
What matter, since for every day of mine  
Sufficient grace for me comes with the morn?  
And though the future brings some heavier cross  
I need not cloud the present with my fears;  
I know the grace that is enough today  
Will be sufficient still through all the years.

Annie Johnson Flint

**2 Corinthians 12:9** And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

#### He Giveth More Grace

He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater,  
He sendeth more strength when the labors increase;  
To added affliction He addeth His mercy;  
To multiplied trials, His multiplied peace.

When we have exhausted our store of endurance,  
When our strength has failed ere the day is half done,  
When we reach the end of our hoarded resources,  
Our Father's full giving is only begun.

Fear not that thy need shall exceed His provision,  
Our God ever yearns His resources to share;  
Lean hard on the arm everlasting, availing;  
The Father both thee and thy load will upbear.

His love has no limit; His grace has no measure.  
His pow'r has no boundary known unto men;  
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus,  
He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again!

Annie Johnson Flint

**2 Corinthians 12:9** And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

## The Parable of the Two Sons

Jesus' purpose is to send a strong message to the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law that God's evaluation of our status with Him can be quite different from our own.

### The Context

- A. Matthew 21:12-17: Cleansing of the temple
- B. Matthew 21:18-22: Cursing of the Fig Tree
- C. Matthew 21:23: And when they entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?"
- D. Matthew 21:24-27: The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or man?
- E. Matthew 21:28: What do you think?

### The Story Matthew 21:28-32

#### The Characters

A. The father

B. The first son  
Repentance

- God calls his people to \_\_\_\_\_. Luke 5:32
- Repentance opens the way to \_\_\_\_\_. 2 Chronicles 7:14

- God \_\_\_\_\_ all people should repent. Ezekiel 18:32
- God is \_\_\_\_\_ with the unrepentant- 2 Peter 3:9
- Some will \_\_\_\_\_ to repent.
- A repentant heart bears \_\_\_\_\_ Luke 3:8-14

C. The Second Son

- Not everyone who calls me, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, will enter the Kingdom of heaven but the one who does the \_\_\_\_\_ of my Father who is in heaven. Matthew 7:21

## The Lessons

1. No one is too far from God's \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful to \_\_\_\_\_ our sins."
  
2. God wants our \_\_\_\_\_. A heart devoted to Him is committed to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Galatians 5:1 "For \_\_\_\_\_ Christ has set us \_\_\_\_\_; therefore do not submit again to the yoke of slavery."
  
  - Galatians 5:13 "For you were called to \_\_\_\_\_ brothers, only do not use your \_\_\_\_\_ as an opportunity for the flesh, but through \_\_\_\_\_ serve one another. You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
  
3. Run your race! Hebrews 12:1-3
  - Drop the weight
  - Run your race
  - Look to Jesus

Ann Voskamp, "Repent. You are broken and you don't have to pretend you are not. What a relief. It's the very first word of Jesus teaching- not love, not grace, the very first word of the gospel is repent. You begin to break your brokenness when you break down your brokenness - when you hand it over to the One broken for you.

If repentance isn't a part of your daily life, how is grace a part of your daily life?

Repentance is what keeps turning you around and around sanding you down, reforming you, remaking you - making your real."

### Ellie Holcomb- He Will Lyrics

Heaven came and kissed the earth  
Prophets on the go foretold His birth  
He became the living word  
To show the human heart its worth  
Whether I'm in want or plenty  
Whether I'm in health or ill  
Our God promises his children He will, He will  
He'll bind up the broken hearted  
He will, oh He will

He'll set captives free from darkness  
He will, He will  
He'll breathe hope into the hopeless  
Help the restless soul be still

He will, He will  
He came to walk in truth and grace  
Man of sorrows entered all our pain  
On the cross He took our place  
Then He rose up out of the grave  
He'll give beauty for our ashes  
He'll restore the oil of gladness  
We will praise Him through our sadness  
'til the promise is fulfilled  
He will, He will

## **The Parable of the Tenants: Harvest Time/Harvest Crime**

### **Context**

Jesus turns up the heat, pokes the bear and a bonfire explodes

John 8:58 "Before Abraham was, I AM!"

Exodus 3:14 God says, "I AM WHO I AM... tell them I AM sent you."

### **The Feast of Tabernacles**

- a joyful 8-day celebration of the fall harvest
- thousands of Jews pilgrimage to Jerusalem and set up temporary dwellings
- remembrance of God's faithfulness and provision during Israel's 40-year desert journey

### **Matthew 21:33-39**

master of the house/land owner = \_\_\_\_\_

land/vineyard = \_\_\_\_\_

tenant farmers = \_\_\_\_\_

owner's messengers/servants = \_\_\_\_\_

owner's son = \_\_\_\_\_

### **Matthew 21:40-41**

Bring those \_\_\_\_\_ to a \_\_\_\_\_ end!

### **Matthew 21:42-46**

Psalm 118:22 "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."

\_\_\_\_\_ is the cornerstone.

Is Jesus our Rock, our firm foundation upon which everything else rests, or will His words and claims trip us up, or even \_\_\_\_\_ us?

### **A deep, dark secret**

“It is intrinsic to every human heart, a contempt, an enmity, an anger, a hatred for God.” Tim Keller

### **How am I treating the Owner?**

“We are all tenants acting like owners.” Tim Keller

We steward our body, relationships, thought life, emotions, talents, possessions, privilege, circumstances, and even our hopes and dreams.

“Only God is capable of telling us what our rights and needs are. You have to surrender that right to Him.” Joni Eareckson Tada

### **How am I treating the messengers?**

A messenger could be a parent, a child, a ministry leader, a friend, God’s Word, the Holy Spirit, a life circumstance, etc.

“Because of the Lord’s great \_\_\_\_\_, we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every \_\_\_\_\_; great is Your faithfulness.” Lamentations 3:22-23

### **How am I treating the Son?**

Turning haters back Home.

“What a wretched man I am! Who will \_\_\_\_\_ me from this body of death? Thanks be to God – through Jesus Christ our Lord!” Romans 7:24

Thank the Lord that salvation and the flourishing of God’s kingdom doesn’t depend on how we treat the Son, but on how He treats us.

“But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still \_\_\_\_\_, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

## INTRODUCTION - The Ten Virgins

I. What are we to be doing until he comes?

II. THE WEDDING OF THAT DAY

III THE VIRGINS

A. THE FOOLISH VIRGINS

"It is well that we should ask ourselves if we are indeed genuine in our profession and in the activity in which we participate when we move in the midst of the fellowship of the Church."

B. THE WISE AND THEIR OIL

"Oil" is often symbolized by oil in Scripture.

James Boice that if we think that is what this parable is saying then "we start thinking that one can have the Holy Spirit and then run out of Him or want more of Him.

It is better to think of the oil simply as an inward condition that has been accomplished by the indwelling Spirit.

### C. OTHER LESSONS FROM THE PARABLE

1. THE LIFE OF THE JESUS WITHIN US IS NOT TRANSFERABLE.

2. LOST OPPORTUNITIES CANNOT BE REGAINED.

3. THE LORD ALWAYS COMES WITHOUT WARNING.

"SAY, WILL YOU BE READY WHEN JESUS COMES?  
ARE YOU TRULY BORN AGAIN, WASHED IN JESUS BLOOD?  
ARE YOUR GARMENTS SPOTLESS, ARE THEY WHITE AS SNOW?  
WILL YOU BE READY WHEN JESUS COMES?"

## **The Talents**

March 14, 2017

## **The Old Rugged Cross**

*George Bennard, 1913*

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,  
The emblem of suffering and shame;  
And I love that old cross where the Dearest and Best  
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

### *Refrain:*

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,  
Till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
And exchange it someday for a crown.

Oh, that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,  
Has a wondrous attraction for me;  
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above  
To bear it to dark Calvary.

In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,  
A wondrous beauty I see,  
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,  
To pardon and sanctify me.

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true;  
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;  
Then He'll call me someday to my home far away,  
Where His glory forever I'll share.

## **The Journey**

## **The Waiting Parables**

### **The Parable of the Talents**

“For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five

talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 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.' 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.' 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.' 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.' 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, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' 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?* 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. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. 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. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' (Matthew 25:14-30, ESV)

## **Context**

"When you study the Bible, start with what God has clearly revealed to you about himself. When you encounter a text that *seems* to contradict that – don't junk what he has shown you, dig deeper." – Steve Brown

For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. (Romans 5:19)

## **The Talents**

### **The Owner of the Talents**

#### **Different Weights**

## **Knowing the Owner**

### **The Stewards of the Talents**

#### **The Temptation to Hide**

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. (Hebrews 13:14-16)

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. (I Peter 4:10-11)

#### **The Call to Faith**

“it is impossible to separate works from faith, quite as impossible as to separate burning and shining from fire.” – Martin Luther

“Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.” (James 2:17)

**Do you see him?**

## Context

- I. Ezekiel 34:11-16 “For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup> As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>14</sup> I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup> I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. <sup>16</sup> I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed,”
- II. The Practice of Shepherding

## Jesus Is the Good Shepherd

### How Does He Shepherd Us?

- A. He Makes Us His Own
  - a. Isaiah 53:6 “All we like Sheep have gone astray; we have turned – every one – to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”
  - b. 1 Peter 2:25 For you were continually straying like sheep but have now returned to the Shepherd and guardian of your souls.
  - c. Matthew 9:36 “When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”
  - d. Psalm 23:1 The Lord is **my** Shepherd, I shall not want...
  - e. Psalm 100:3 We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.
- B. He Enables Us to Hear His Voice
  - a. How can we live in daily personal communication with God, hearing His voice?
    - i. Through Scripture and through the power of the Spirit of God.
    - ii. Timothy Keller “We were called to an intelligent mysticism. That means an encounter with God that involves not only

the affections of the heart but also the convictions of the mind”

### C. He Leads Us

- a. Psalm 23 says
  - i. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures.  
He leads me beside still waters.<sup>[a]</sup>  
<sup>3</sup> He restores my soul.  
He leads me in paths of righteousness<sup>[b]</sup>  
for his name's sake.
- b. Abundant Life
- c. The Sheep Follow
  - i. Hosea 4:16 Since Israel is stubborn like a stubborn heifer, can the Lord now pasture them like a lamb in a large field?

### D. The Good Shepherd Lays Down His Life For Us

- a. John 15:13 “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”
- b. What a glorious paradox: the Good Shepherd became the Lamb of God to take away the sin of the world. Even throughout eternity, Jesus will be known as the Lamb who shepherds his people and guides them to springs of living water (Revelation 7:17).
- c. Exodus 33:18-19 Moses said, “Please show me your glory.” And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name ‘The LORD.’ And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.
- d. Psalm 23:6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.
- e. Genesis 48:15 Jacob was old and near death and as he was blessing Joseph he said “The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day...”

## Parables Wrap-up

### HOW SHOULD WE READ THE PARABLES?

#### **The Good Samaritan**

A: Help the needy. Don't be racist.

B: Jesus crossed all the boundaries to save us, his enemies, so now we can go help others find healing.

#### **The Great Banquet**

A: Be hospitable. Don't be a snob.

B: Jesus has welcomed us—the needy outsiders—so now we can welcome others.

#### **The Persistent Widow**

A: If you pray hard and often enough, God will give you what you want.

B: We can pray, trusting that God is loving and just.

#### **The Talents**

A: Don't let your talents go to waste.

B: Knowing God's goodness allows us to live out our faith in Him with courage.

*What is Jesus telling us about himself through this parable?*

*How can I see the gospel here?*

### WHAT DO THE PARABLES TEACH?

<b>Self-centered</b>	<b>Both</b>	<b>Christ-centered</b>
The Weeds, The Unforgiving Servant, The Rich Fool, The Barren Fig Tree, The Tenants	The Good Samaritan, The Sower, The Great Banquet, The Rich Man & Lazarus, The Pharisee and the Tax Collector, The Two Sons, The Ten Virgins, The Talents, The Vine & The Branches	The Hidden Treasure, The Friend at Midnight, The Prodigal Son, The Dishonest Manager, The Persistent Widow, The Good Shepherd

### III. HOW DO WE LIVE CHRIST-CENTERED?

John 15

We abide in Christ when we follow his command (10), and his command is to love one another (12) sacrificially (13).

## Parables Wrap-up

Jesus made...

- A choice (v16) to
- Do what's best for us (v11)
- Even when it is inconvenient or painful (to us and him v2,13)
- Giving us truth (v15), power (v5), grace (v16) and purpose (v12,14,16)
- Blessing us (v7,16)

