



# STORY TIME

Discovering the Parables of Jesus

- The parables of Jesus make up a crucial part of the Bible. Jesus had the wisdom to simplify profound spiritual truths in the form of relatable stories that are easy to understand. A parable is a tale about a simple, common subject to illustrate a more profound, valuable moral lesson.
- Sometimes the Gospel authors begin a parable with an analogy, as "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard" (Matthew 20:1). Or Jesus may provide an example from everyday life to convey spiritual truth, such as the Parable of the Good Samaritan to emphasize love and mercy.
- A parable utilizes the full story to produce the spiritual lesson, whereas a proverb, metaphor, simile, or figure of speech centers usually on a word, phrase, or sentence.

Parables use rich imagery of language to catch the listener unaware. At first it all seems so familiar, and then a shift develops in the plot of the story. The ordinariness of the parable is transformed by a surprising twist. A consciousness of God and His way of viewing the world enters the commonplace scene to communicate the divine message. The familiar setting of the parable allows each person to understand God's will. The physical reality of the parable reveals the natural affinity between the world in which we live and the spiritual dimension. The drama comes alive in meaning because of the theological significance of the parables.

- Brad H. Young



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# Luke 10:25-37

<sup>25</sup> On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

<sup>26</sup> “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?” <sup>27</sup> He answered, “‘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, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

28 “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.” 29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” 30 In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.

<sup>31</sup> A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.

<sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

<sup>36</sup> “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

<sup>37</sup> The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

--Luke 10:25-37, NIV



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The people of Samaria were of mixed Israelite and foreign descent, so the Jewish people did not accept them as part of the Jewish community. The hostilities between Jews and Samaritans dated all the way back to the late sixth-century BC. The Samaritans worshiped Yahweh and used a version of the Pentateuch as their Scripture, but they worshipped on Mount Gerizim, not in Jerusalem. Thus the Samaritans were despised by Jews for both ethnic and religious reasons; there was mutual hatred by the Samaritans toward Jews.

John D. Barry et al., *Faithlife Study Bible* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012, 2016), Lk 10:33.



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# So What?

- Our religiosity doesn't impress our Lord.
- Our righteousness doesn't impress our Lord.
- Our relationship with Jesus enables us to love like our Lord.



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**Our religiosity doesn't impress our Lord.**

**“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.” (Matthew 23:27-28)**

**Our righteousness doesn't  
impress our Lord.**

**All of us have become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we  
all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our  
sins sweep us away.**

**(Isaiah 64:6)**

**Our relationship with Jesus enables us to  
love like our Lord.**

**We love because he first loved us.  
(1 John 4:19)**





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