



STORY TIME

Discovering the Parables of Jesus

Why is it important to study the Parables?

- One-third of the recorded sayings of Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels are in parables.
- If we do not understand the parables, we miss what may be known about the historical Jesus. One must understand parables to know Jesus.
- The parables are designed to portray a reality. In a world of metaphorical redescription, the reality behind the parable is dramatized in word-pictures. (Brad H. Young)
- The gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke are referred to as the Synoptic Gospels because they include many of the same stories, often in a similar sequence and in similar or sometimes identical wording. They stand in contrast to John, whose content is largely distinct. (Wikipedia)

Hebrew noun mashal מִשָּׁל

- Definition: a parable, proverb, riddle, anecdote, allegory
- It defines the unknown by using what is known.
- The mashal begins where the listener is, but then pushes beyond into a new realm of discovery.

Greek noun parabole παραβάλλω

Definition: a comparing, comparison of one thing with another, likeness, similitude, juxtaposition

39 Parables of Jesus

PARABLE/LESSON	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE
Wheat and tares	13:24-30		
Barren fig tree			13:6-9
Children in market	11:16-19		7:31-35
Budding Fig Tree	24:32-36	13:28-32	21:29-33
Lamp under basket	5:14-16	4:21-23	8:16-18
Dinner guests			14:15-24
Divided Kingdom	12:24-30	3:22-27	11:14-23
Faithful servants			12:35-40
Feast invitations			14:12-14
Friend at midnight			11:5-13
Good Samaritan ✓			10:25-37
Great physician	9:10-13	2:15-17	5:29-32
Groom's attendants	9:14-15	2:18-20	5:33-35
Growing seed		4:26-29	
Hidden treasure	13:44		
Humbled guest			14:7-11
King's war plans			14:31-32
Laborers in vineyard	20:1-16		
Leaven	13:33		13:20-21
Lost coin			15:8-10
Lost sheep			15:4-7

PARABLE/LESSON	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE
Marriage feast	22:1-14		
Mustard seed	13:31-32	4:30-32	13:18-19
Net of fish	13:47-50		
New cloth	9:16	2:21	5:36
New wine	9:17	2:22	5:37-39
Pearl of great price	13:45-46		
Persistent widow			18:1-8
Sower ✓	13:3-23		
Rich man			12:13-21
Talents	25:14-30		
Minas			19:11-27
Prodigal son ✓			15:11-32
Steward and rich man			16:1-8
Ten virgins	25:1-12		
Great Supper			14:15-24
Two sons	21:28-31		
Merciless servant in debt with his master ✓	18:23-35		
Wicked Vinedressers	21:33-46	12:1-11	12:35-48

Matthew 24 & 25

- As He [Jesus] was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things happen, and **what will be the sign of Your coming**, and of the end of the age?” Matthew 24:3
- Jesus said, “For then **there will be a great tribulation**, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.” Matthew 24:21-22
- Jesus said, “For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the [second] **coming of the Son of Man be.**” Matthew 24:27

When is Messiah Jesus returning to earth?

- “Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; so, you too, **when you see all these things, recognize that He is near**, right at the door.” Matthew 24:32-33
- “**Be on the alert** then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.” Matthew 25:13

Jesus begins a parable...

“For it [the Kingdom of Heaven] is just like a man about to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions [goods] to them. To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey.” Matthew 25:14-15

*The master had a good deal of confidence in these men, but he did not hold confidence in them equally. So he gave them different responsibilities. – John Walvoord

From last week's parable...

“When he [the king or ruler] had begun to settle them [the accounts], one who owed him ten thousand talents [Greek τάλαντον *talanton*] was brought to him.” Matthew 18:24

* In the New Testament, the “talent” was used as a unit of weight but otherwise, it was a unit of money. Different cultures had different talents, but most scholars believe Jesus would have been referring to the Attic/Athenian talent.

Last week... How much was a talent worth?

- A denarius [singular coin] was a day's wage for a common workingman. In today's world, at a \$7.25/hour minimum wage, it would be \$58.
- A talent was 6,000 denarii [plural], or 20 years of daily wages for a six-day workweek.
- Today, one talent would be worth \$348,000.

“Immediately the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more talents. In the same manner the one who had received the two talents gained two more.” Matthew 25:16-17

- *5 talents were worth 80-100 years' wages for an average worker.
- *2 talents were worth 30-40 years' wages.
- *These servants produced a 100% return on the lord's investment.

“But he who received the one talent went away, and dug a hole in the ground [earth] and hid his master’s [Greek *argurion* - silver] money.” Matthew 25:18

*This servant was not cheated or ignored, he was given a tremendously valuable gift (one talent = \$348,000)

*He made no effort to build on what he was given

*He did not even try to find opportunities to serve his lord

Who were the recipients of talents?

- They were all called “servants” of the lord
- They were all given the same assignment
- They were all given the same opportunity
- They were all given large, valuable gifts
- They were all given the same length of time
- The lord (master) knew each person individually

“Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.”

Matthew 25:19

*We are called to be faithful servants as we wait for our Lord to come back (the Second Coming of Jesus, following the conclusion of the Tribulation)

*We will all give an account for our obedience and faithfulness to the Lord

“The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave [servant]. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’”

Matthew 25:20-21

- This result took hard work, faithfulness, obedience, dedication, effort.
- What is the reward for faithful obedience? “Enter into the joy of your master.”

“Also the one who had received the two talents came up and said, ‘Master, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have gained two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave [servant]. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master [Lord].’” Matthew 25:22-23

*Both were rewarded with increased responsibilities in their master’s service; both were invited to share in their master’s joy.

*Perseverance in the task of stewardship is the foundation of success. – Brad H. Young

“And the one also who had received the one talent came up and said, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you scattered no seed. And I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.’” Matthew 25:24-25

*The gift and the assignment given to the third servant was not small and not meaningless. Comparison is discouraging.

There was some innuendo in this reply from the one-talent man. He describes his lord as a very hardheaded businessman. He tells him that he is the kind of a man who reaps where he has not sown, and gathers where he has not spread. He said that his lord was the kind of person that got everything he could. He implied that the lord was not completely honest. The lord of this servant does not bother to deny the charge although he does not accept the verdict that he is a “hard” man. If the servant really believed his lord was hard and grasping he would have been all the more diligent to please him. In any event it was no excuse.

- John Walvoord

“But his master [lord] answered and said to him [third servant], ‘You **wicked, lazy** slave [servant], you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no seed. Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival [coming] I would have received my money back with interest.’” Matthew 25:26-27

*The servant wasn't just hiding his master's money. He was neglecting the responsibility his master had given him.

- <https://www.messiah-of-god.com/parable-of-the-talents-parable-of-the-pounds.html>

What was **wicked** about this servant's action?

The one-talent man reasoned that his lord was going on a far journey. If the servant put the money in the bank, he would have to register it in his lord's name. Then when his lord did not come back, his heirs could claim it. He reasoned, however, that if he buried it in the backyard, there would be no record. If his master did not come back, the servant would have it. If he does come back, he could not accuse him of dishonesty because he could produce the talent. It was a cunning that was built upon uncertainty that the lord was returning. He just did not believe that his lord was coming back. If he had, he would have handled the money differently. This is what the lord meant when he said that he was a wicked servant. - John Walvoord

“Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.” Matthew 25:28

- Stewardship is always reckoned according to faithfulness. It is not how much, but how faithful. The five-talent man and the two-talent man had been equally faithful and they received equal commendation. The Lord does not give everyone the same talents. Judgment will not be a question of how much or how successful, but how faithful. The lord of these servants expects from them only in proportion as he has given to them. Everyone has an equal opportunity to be rewarded. - John Walvoord
- The professed servants who do not truly know the Lord, who do not follow and obey the master, end up with nothing spiritually.

Jesus said, “For to everyone who has, **more shall be given**, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. Throw [cast] out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” Matthew 25:29-30

***Blessing follows obedience**

In the parable of the talents, the servants who work for their master while he is away are rewarded appropriately based on their efforts. Likewise, Jesus will reward those who are working for Him and His kingdom while He is away. However, those who claim that Jesus is their master, but who are not working for Him while He is away, will receive severe consequence.

Do all professing servants really know the master?

Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount...

“**Not everyone** who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.’” Matthew 7:21-23

Jesus said, "For to everyone who has, more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away." Matthew 25:29

Jesus makes this same statement in:

- Matthew 13:12 (Explanation of Why Jesus Speaks in Parables)
- Luke 8:18 & Mark 4:25 (Parable of the Lamp Under a Basket)
- Luke 12:48 (Parable of the Faithful and Unfaithful Servants)
- Luke 19:26 (Parable of the Pounds)
- In all of these contexts, the thing to be "had," that can be given or taken away, is the Kingdom of God, knowledge and understanding of God and what is expected of His servants. If you know what God expects of you, and if you understand how He and His kingdom operate, you can obey Him more effectively and be more aligned with His will.

- Jesus said, “Throw [cast] out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be **weeping and gnashing of teeth**.” Matthew 25:30
- Jesus said, “but the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there will be **weeping and gnashing of teeth**.” Matthew 8:12
- Jesus said, “those who commit lawlessness, and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be **weeping and gnashing of teeth**.” Matthew 13:41c-42
- “wailing” signifies anguish
- “gnashing of teeth” is a graphic way of expressing despair

- We should carefully note the outcome of faithful service, and of unfaithful service, in this parable. Faithful service led to increased responsibilities in the kingdom of heaven, and eternal joy in the presence of the Master, Jesus Christ.
- Unfaithful service led to condemnation, the removal of one's stewardship, and an eternity of weeping and gnashing of teeth in outer darkness, away from the presence of our Lord.
- One must surely conclude that this parable is not just an interesting story, but a message of eternal significance.

How can we best use our “talents”?

- Do we really know Jesus/Yeshua as our Lord?
- Are we using our opportunities/abilities to honor the Lord?
- Will we volunteer in ministry? “TAKE 5”
- Will we give faithfully to ministry? “TITHES & OFFERINGS”
- Will we pray for those who are hurting? “24/7 PRAYER”
- Will we serve God by serving others? “SPROUTS PROJECT”

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?

TAKE AND FILL A BOX

(or donate \$40 and we'll fill one for you)

DONATE 'THROW' BLANKETS

DONATE DISPOSABLE DIAPERS

Boxes and info available in the lobby



MONDAY, JULY 31

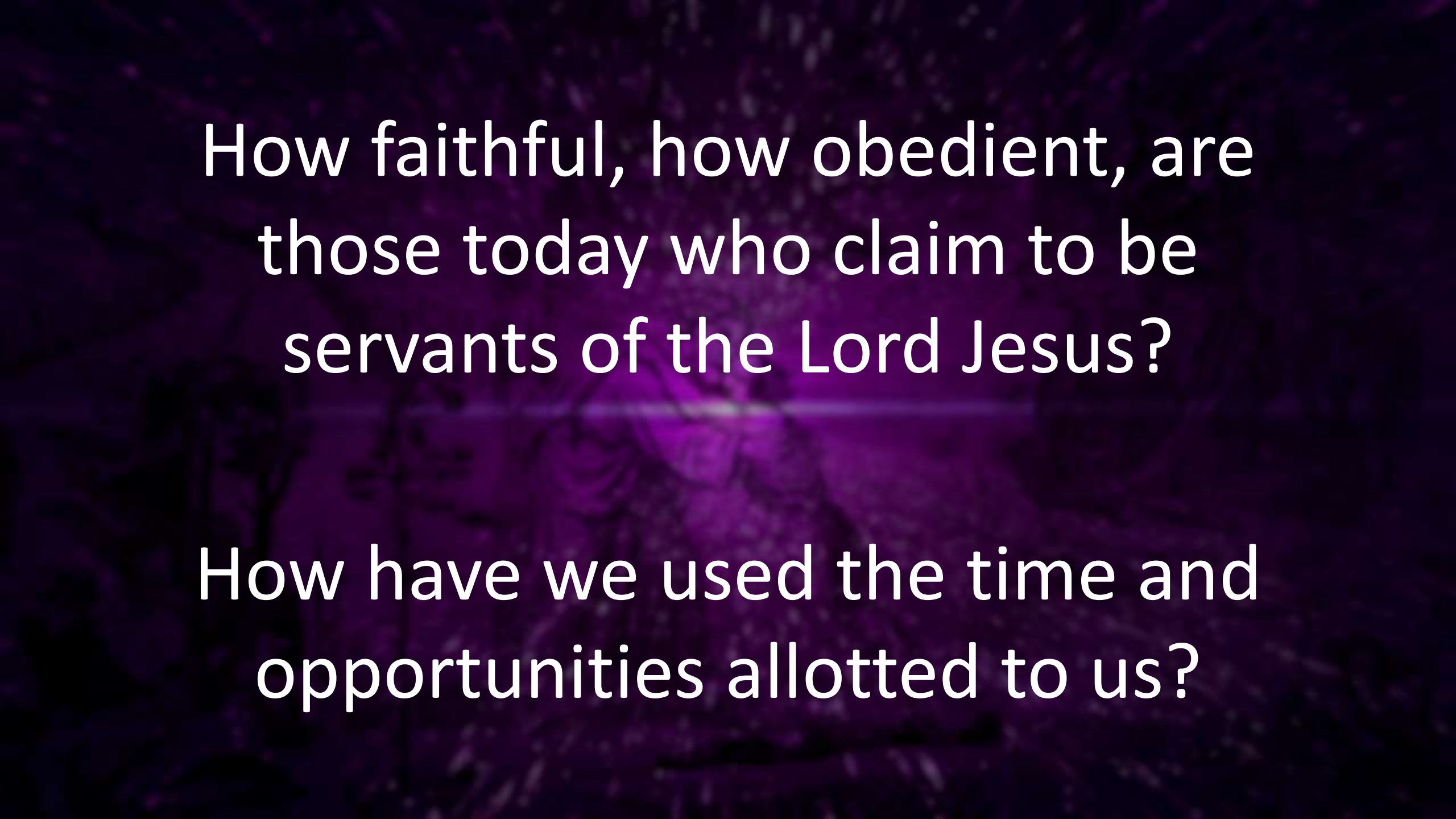
Deadline for returning items

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23

Work night to help prepare items for shipping

What to do as we await our Lord's return?

- Be Faithful
- Be Watchful
- Be Alert
- Labor for the Lord
- Seek opportunities to serve Him



How faithful, how obedient, are
those today who claim to be
servants of the Lord Jesus?

How have we used the time and
opportunities allotted to us?