

The Parables of Jesus with The Rev. Jeffrey S. Miller

Jesus the Teacher

- A. Savior
- B. King
- C. Messiah
- D. Prophet
- *E. Teacher/Rabbi
 - 1. Mark 10:17 Rich, Young Man
 - 2. John 3:2, Nicodemus
 - 3. Matthew 23:8; John 13:13-14

II. Primarily a Teaching Ministry

- A. Mark 1:35-39

III. A Great Teacher!

- A. Mark 12:37 (“The crowd listened with delight”)
 - 1. Engaging Method
 - a. A Picture is worth a Thousand words! Word Pictures were The Lord’s “Preferred” Method – 27 total

What a Parable IS...

- A. Story Drawn from Real Life...
 - 1. Prodigal Son
 - 2. Good Samaritan
 - 3. Pharisee and Tax Collector
 - 4. Wedding Banquet
 - 5. Sheep and Goats
- B. Often an Agrarian Context
 - 1. Parable of Sower

What a Parable is NOT...

- A. A Fable
 - 1. Aesop’s Fables (Animals talk, etc)
- B. Not an Allegory (Everything has meaning)
 - 1. “Pilgrim’s Progress” by John Bunyan
 - A. *Christian, Hope, Miss Busy Work, Mr. Worldly Wiseman, Mr. Feeble Mind*

2. C. S. Lewis’s “Chronicles of Narnia”

- a. *Aslan, Edmund, White Witch*

What is a Parable Meant to Do?

- A. Impart 1 or a few simple NOT simplistic truths

Types of Parables...

- A. Parables of the Kingdom
- B. Parables of Salvation
- C. Parables of Wisdom and Folly
- D. Parables of Christian Life
- E. Parables of Judgment

A Kingdom Parable

Matthew 13:1-23

I. Parable about the Origin of the Kingdom of God

- A. The Sower: Christ or the Bearer of God’s Word
- B. The Seed: God’s Word
- *C. The Soil: The Human Heart

II. A Parable about the Human Heart!

- A. I Samuel 16:1-7 (Man looks on the outward Appearance)
- B. Matthew 15:10-20 (Not what goes in that Corrupts)
- C. Psalm 51:10 (Create in Me a Clean Heart)
- D. Matthew 5:8 (Blessed are the Pure in Heart)
- E. Collect for Purity

III. The Types of Hearts...

- A. The HARD Heart
 - 1. What Makes the Heart Hard?
 - 2. Romans 1 Heart
 - 3. Today is the Day of Salvation! (2 Cor. 6:2)
- B. The SHALLOW Heart
 - 1. Serial Killer Joseph Paul Franklin (1950-2013)
- C. The STRANGLED Heart
 - 1. Matthew 19:16-24
 - 2. Luke 12:13-21
- D. The Open, Receptive Heart!
 - 1. Only a fraction actually receive the Word
 - 2. Only Evidence of Salvation is FRUIT!

- a. Matthew 7:15-23
- b. Ephesians 2:8-10
- c. Galatians 5:22-23
- d. Not merely “good works”

IV. What kind of a Heart do you have?

- A. Ezekiel 36:26

Luke 10:25-37

“The Good Samaritan”

I. Familiar Story

- A. “Boy Who Cried Wolf”
- B. “Emperor’s New Clothes”
- C. “The Good Samaritan”

II. Familiar NOT Obvious; Simple NOT Simplistic

- A. Two Stories
- B. Don’t Seem to Go Together
 - 1. First about Salvation
 - 2. Second about God Pleasing Conduct

III. Context! Context!! Context!!!

- A. A “Lawyer’s” Question
 - 1. A “Test”
- B. An Important Question!
- C. A Rarely Asked Question
 - 1. What must I do to succeed?
 - 2. What must I do get people to like me?
 - 3. What must I do to be fulfilled?

IV. Why is this Question Neglected?

- A. Implies there is something imperiling us!
- B. Sin has fallen out of fashion – even in the Church
 - Clergy dropped sin lest they offend their congregations!
 - Jurists picked sin up and turned it into “crime.”
 - Psychiatrists took sin and turned it into a “complex.”
 - The Public took sin and made it a “mistake.”
 - NOW No one believes in SIN anymore! We are all “Immaculately conceived!”

V. “What Does the Law Say?”

- A. The Correct Answer: Deut. 6:5; Mark 12:30

VI. Lawyer felt convicted by his own answer!

- A. Seeking to “justify” himself – v29
 - 1. Who loves God like this?
 - a. Not a matter of comparison with others (Matthew 5:48)
 - 2. Ignores first commandment and quibbles over second... “Who is my neighbor?”

VII. The Lord’s Response...

VIII. What has Jesus Done by this Story?

- A. Lawyer makes Neighbor the object – something “out there!”
 - 1. “Define that term so I can fulfill the law!”
 - a. What legalists/fundamentalists always do!
 - B. Jesus makes neighbor the SUBJECT of question!

IX. With Jesus there are no Excuses!

- A. Priest and Levite had excuses....
 - 1. Dangerous Territory
 - 2. Ritual Defilement
- B. Samaritan had more excuses
 - 1. This man was a Jew!
 - 2. He was himself a victim of Prejudice!
 - 3. Helping was personally Inconvenient!

NOT PRIDE, PREJUDICE, PERSONAL INCONVENIENCE, or ANYTHING ELSE got in the way of mercy!

X. A Matter of the Heart...

- A. What Character are you in this story?
 - 1. Priest?
 - 2. Levite?
 - 3. Samaritan?
 - 4. Actually.....

“Go and Do Likewise!”