



45 - Parables Told by Jesus Christ

A parable is a simple story used to teach a lesson while hiding the true meaning or subject of the story. At a certain point in Jesus' ministry, He started using parables in order to hide the true meaning of what He was saying from unworthy people (**Matthew 13:10-17**). Many times, the apostles needed to come to Jesus and ask Him to explain the meaning of the parable to them. It seems many parables can only be understood through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It should be noted that many of these are actually metaphors (comparing two unlike things) rather than parables.



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| Parable | General Meaning/Comparison | Matthew | Mark | Luke | John | |
|---------|--|--|----------------|----------|----------|---------|
| 1 | The sick and the physician | Sinners are the sick and Jesus is the physician. | 9:10-13 | 2:15-17 | 5:29-32 | |
| 2 | The bridegroom attendants | While Jesus was there, it was a time to rejoice not mourn. | 9:14-15 | 2:18-20 | 5:33-35 | |
| 3 | Unshrunk cloth on an old garment | The Law not working with Christianity. | 9:16 | 2:21 | 5:36 | |
| 4 | New wine in old wineskins | The Law not working with Christianity. | 9:17 | 2:22 | 5:37-39 | |
| 5 | Wise and foolish builders | Building your faith on Jesus vs the world. | 7:24-27 | | 6:47-49 | |
| 6 | Children in the marketplace | Don't let your heart be corrupt and demanding...be content. | 11:16-19 | | 7:31-35 | |
| 7 | The two debtors | The grace of God. | | | 7:41-43 | |
| 8 | The sign of Jonah | The sign of Jonah should have taught the Jews of Jesus. | 12:38-42 | | 11:29-32 | |
| 9 | An unclean spirit | Only the Holy Spirit can keep a demon out. | 12:43-45 | | 11:24-26 | |
| 10 | The sower and the soils | The seed is the word of God and the soils are men's hearts. | 13:1-23 | 4:1-20 | 8:4-15 | |
| 11 | The light of the world | Being righteous ambassadors for Christ. | 5:14-16 | 4:21-23 | 8:16-17 | |
| 12 | He who has will be given more | About using spiritual gifts and God granting knowledge | 13:12 | 4:24-25 | 8:18 | |
| 13 | Kingdom of Heaven-growing seed | The kingdom of heaven grows without us knowing how. | | 4:26-29 | | |
| 14 | Tares among the wheat | Tares are non-believers and wheat are believers. | 13:24-30,36-43 | | | |
| 15 | Kingdom of Heaven-a mustard seed | Even a small amount of faith can accomplish much. | 13:31-32 | 4:30-32 | 13:18-19 | |
| 16 | Kingdom of Heaven-leaven (yeast) | The kingdom of heaven can spread in an unseen way. | 13:33 | | 13:20-21 | |
| 17 | Kingdom of Heaven-hidden treasure | The kingdom of heaven is worth giving up everything for. | 13:44 | | | |
| 18 | Kingdom of Heaven-pearl of great price | The kingdom of heaven is worth more than anything else. | 13:45-46 | | | |
| 19 | Kingdom of Heaven-a dragnet of fish | All that is evil will be purged from all that is good. | 13:47-50 | | | |
| 20 | Head of a household (householder) | If you desire the kingdom of heaven you give up everything. | 13:52 | | | |
| 21 | The bread of life | Jesus is the bread of life. | | | | 6:22-65 |
| 22 | The lost sheep | God loves everyone greatly and will find any strays. | 18:12-14 | | 15:1-7 | |
| 23 | Unmerciful servant | Jesus forgave us our sins so we must also forgive others. | 18:21-35 | | | |
| 24 | The good Samaritan | We must always show mercy to everyone. | | | 10:25-37 | |
| 25 | The door of the sheep (good shepherd) | The only way into heaven is through Jesus Christ. | | | | 10:1-21 |
| 26 | The friend at midnight | Be persistent in prayer...God is listening! | | | 11:5-13 | |
| 27 | Divided kingdom | Only Jesus has the power and authority to cast out demons. | 12:24-37 | 3:22-30 | 11:14-23 | |
| 28 | The eye is the lamp of your body | How you perceive what you see is based on your heart. | | | 11:33-36 | |
| 29 | Foolish Rich Man (barn builder) | Storing treasure for yourself and ignoring God. | | | 12:16-21 | |
| 30 | Don't worry and be alert | Be alert...Jesus could return anytime! | | 13:33-37 | 12:22-40 | |
| 31 | Wise and foolish servants (stewards) | Live each day righteously...Jesus could return anytime! | 24:45-51 | | 12:41-48 | |
| 32 | A barren fig tree | The fig tree was the Jews as a nation. | | | 13:6-9 | |
| 33 | The ambitious guest | We must always be humble and God will exalt us. | | | 14:7-11 | |
| 34 | The invited dinner guests | Help those that are less fortunate than yourself | | | 14:12-14 | |
| 35 | Invited banquet (big dinner) guests | The Jews were the invited but the Gentiles replaced them. | | | 14:15-24 | |
| 36 | The incompetent builder | We must make Jesus our foundation. | | | 14:25-30 | |
| 37 | The king's war plans | Only those who understand the value of God are worthy. | | | 14:31-33 | |
| 38 | The salt of the world | Being righteous ambassadors for Christ. | 5:13 | 9:50 | 14:34-35 | |
| 39 | The lost coin | God wishes for everyone to be found (saved). | | | 15:8-10 | |
| 40 | The prodigal (lost) son | The Father's love for and grace given to the lost. | | | 15:11-32 | |
| 41 | The unrighteous manager | Be sure to use all God has given you righteously. | | | 16:1-13 | |
| 42 | The rich man and Lazarus | Pride and riches are only temporary. TRUE STORY | | | 16:19-31 | |
| 43 | Servant's duty | We have the duty to serve Jesus because he is our master. | | | 17:7-10 | |
| 44 | The unrighteous judge | God will always do what is right...be patient! | | | 18:1-8 | |
| 45 | The Pharisee and the tax collector | Pride is of the flesh and humility is of God. | | | 18:9-14 | |
| 46 | The laborers in the vineyard | God chooses how much grace He will give to anyone. | 20:1-16 | | | |
| 47 | The ten slaves and ten minas | Use everything God has given you for the kingdom of God. | | | 19:11-27 | |
| 48 | The two sons | Be truthful and don't be a hypocrite. | 21:28-32 | | | |
| 49 | The wicked vine growers | The landowner is God and the vine dressers are the Jews. | 21:33-46 | 12:1-12 | 20:9-18 | |
| 50 | The king's wedding feast | The invited guests were the Jews but gentiles came instead. | 22:1-14 | | | |
| 51 | The budding fig tree | Look for obvious signs...Jesus could come anytime! | 24:32-35 | 13:28-32 | 21:29-33 | |
| 52 | "The days of Noah" | How it will be at the 2nd coming (fallen angels-procreation) | 24:36-39 | | | |
| 53 | One being left and one taken | The bad will be taken away at the 2nd coming | 24:40-44 | | | |
| 54 | The three slaves and eight talents | Use everything God has given you for the kingdom of God. | 25:14-30 | | | |
| 55 | The ten virgins | The oil is the Holy Spirit...Be sure you're saved! | 25:1-13 | | | |
| 56 | The sheep and the goats | Sheep will be the good nations and the goats the bad. | 25:31-46 | | | |
| 57 | The vine and the vine dresser | Jesus is the vine and God is the vine dresser. | | | | 15:1-17 |