

“REGARDLESS OF WHAT ANYONE MAY PERSONALLY THINK OR BELIEVE ABOUT HIM, JESUS OF NAZARETH HAS BEEN THE DOMINANT FIGURE IN THE HISTORY OF WESTERN CULTURE FOR ALMOST TWENTY CENTURIES.”
(JAROSLAV PELIKAN, *JESUS THROUGH THE CENTURIES*)

“The Teachings of Jesus: Parables”

1. Understanding Parables
 - a. Definition of a parable
 - “a brief story using a familiar or immediate situation to illustrate a spiritual truth”
 - b. Comparison of the Synoptics
 - c. Distinctive characteristics of a parable (Ref: Neal F. Fisher)
 - The parable is secular, everyday, in its content.
 - The parable is a simile or a metaphor.
 - The parable uses vivid language
 - The parable involves the hearer as a participant
 - The parable calls for a decision
 - d. A parable usually makes one primary point
 - Too often we interpret parables as allegories
 - Primary point is often indicated by the social-historical setting (context)
 - Primary point often suggested by the unexpected twist in the story
 - e. Different kinds of figures of speech; all generally referred to as “parables”
 - Pure Parables: punchline; single point is clear
 - Allegory: details important to understanding the meaning
 - Simile: KG/KH is *like* something else
 - Metaphor: KG/KH *is* something else
 - f. Why Jesus told parables
 - Some say to make his teachings clearer
 - Others say to hide message from the crowds while he taught his followers
 - Mark 4:10-12
 - Mark 4:34
 - Matthew 13:34-35
 - Luke 8:9-10
2. Specific parables
 - a. Parable of the Lost Sheep (Luke 15:1-7)
 - Context: _____
 - Content: _____
 - Central Point: _____

b. Parable of the Lost Coin (Luke 15:8-10)

- Context: _____
- Content: _____
- Central Point: _____

c. Parable of the Lost Sons (Luke 15:11-32)

- Context: _____
- Content: _____
- Central Point: _____

- Common message of all three parables: _____

d. Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)

- Context: _____
- Content: _____
- Central Point: _____

e. Parable of Unmerciful Servant (Matt. 18:21-35)

- Context: _____
- Content: _____
- Central Point: _____

f. Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard (Matt. 20:1-16)

- Context: _____
- Content: _____
- Central Point: _____

g. Parable of the Sower (Mark 4:1-20)

- Context: _____
- Content: _____
- Central Point: _____

h. Parable of the Wedding Banquet (Matthew 22:1-14)

- Context: _____
- Content: _____
- Central Point: _____

i. Parable of the Ten Virgins (Matthew 25:1-13)

- Context: _____
- Content: _____
- Central Point: _____