

Parables are simply stories that are told to show religious, moral or philosophical principles. They provide simple comparisons of things that naturally occur. The use of parables by Jesus are the keys to life, righteousness, holiness, balance and ultimately the keys to the Kingdom. The people, places, things, and situations reveal a temporal truth... but more than that they represent an eternal spiritual reality.

PARABLE	MATTHE	MARK	LUKE	John
Lamp Under a Basket	5:14-16	4:21,22	8:16,17	
.	.	.	11:33-36	
Bread of life				6:31-38
A Wise Man Builds on Rock	7:24-27	.	6:47-49	
and a Fool on Sand	.	.	.	
New Cloth on and Old	9:16	2:21	5:36	
New Wine in Old Wineskins	9:17	2:22	5:37,38	
The Sower	13:3-23	4:2-20	8:4-15	
The Tares (Weeds)	13:24-30	.	.	
The Mustard Seed	13:31,32	4:30-32	13:18,19	
The Leaven	13:33	.	13:20,21	
The Hidden Treasure	13:44	.	.	
The Pearl of Great Price	13:45,46	.	.	
The Dragnet	13:47-50	.	.	
The Good shepherd				10:1-18
The Householder	13:52	.	.	
The Lost Sheep	18:12-14	.	15:3-7	
The Unforgiving Servant	18:23-35	.	.	
The Workers in the Vineyard	20:1-16	.	.	
The Two Sons	21:28-32	.	.	
The Wicked Tenants	21:33-45	12:1-12	20:9-19	
The Wedding Feast	22:2-14	.	14:16-24	

The Fig Tree	24:32-44	13:28-32	21:29-33	
The Ten Virgins	25:1-13	.	.	
The Talents / The Minas (Pounds)	25:14-30	.	19:11-27	
The Growing Seed	.	4:26-29	.	
The Watchful Porter	.	13:33-37	.	
The Creditor and Two	.		7:41-43	
The Good Samaritan	.		10:30-37	
A Friend in Need	.		11:5-13	
The Rich Fool	.		12:16-21	
The Faithful and Wise	.		12:35-40	
Faithful and Wicked Steward	24:45-51		12:42-48	
The Barren Fig Tree			13:6-9	
The Lowest Seat			14:7-11	
Building a Tower and Making War			14:25-35	
The Lost Coin			15:8-10	
The Lost Son			15:11-32	
The Shrewd Manager			16:1-13	
The Rich Man and Lazarus			16:19-31	
Unprofitable Servants			17:7-10	
The Persistent Widow			18:1-8	
The Pharisee and the Tax Collector			18:9-14	
Vine and branches				15:1-17

Matthew 25: 14-30 “For *the kingdom of heaven is* as a man traveling into a far country, *who* called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made *them* other five talents. And likewise he

that *had received* two, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, Well done, *thou* good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, *there* thou hast *that is* thine. His lord answered and said unto him, *Thou* wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Thou ; therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and *then* at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Take therefore the talent from him, and give *it* unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Luke 19:11-27 “And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear. He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come. But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this *man* to reign over us. And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds. And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities. And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds. And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities. And another came, saying, Lord, behold, *here is* thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin: For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow. And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, *thou* wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow: Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury? And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give *it* to him that hath ten pounds. (And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.) For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be

given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him. But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay *them* before me.”

The Price of a Blessing.

The reality of scripture is that there is a responsibility to the God that we serve but also a responsibility to our brothers and sister in humanity. Over the past several weeks during bible study as we have gone through “Life Lessons in the Parables of Jesus”, it has become abundantly clear that there is both a spiritual responsibility to the kingdom that comes with a direct and very consequential relational experience that we have to have one with the other. And as we take all that we have learned over the passed months, in light of the scripture that we have before us today; we have to make the decision as to what do we do with all that God has given us. For today's lesson Jesus takes us back to the kingdom of Heaven and what it is likened to, and as always we have to harken back to the model prayer and the line “On earth as it is in Heaven” and the understanding that the reality of the this earthly kingdom requires response, movement, expansion, development and increase.

“For the kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.”

Jesus begins this parable with those famous words, “The Kingdom of Heaven is...”; whenever we hear these words we know that we are about to be given a jewel from heaven. The Kingdom is like a man that traveled into a far country...

1. Who is the man that traveled into a far country?

“In my Father’s house are many mansions: if [it were] not [so], I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.” John 14:2

“Jesus answered and said unto them, Though I bear record of myself, [yet] my record is true: for I know whence I came, and whither I go; but ye cannot tell whence I come, and whither I go.” John 8:14

2. What Country?

He Came from Heaven to Earth

3. Who are the servants?

“Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.” John 15:20

“For he that is called in the Lord, [being] a servant, is the Lord’s freeman: likewise also he that is called, [being] free, is Christ’s servant.” 1 Corinthians 7:22

“For though I be free from all [men], yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.” 1 Corinthians 9:19

4. What are the Goods?

“Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.” John 4:10

“...because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.” Acts 10:45

“For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;” Romans 1:11

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.” James 1:17

“And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.”

“And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.”

The master of heaven and earth has given unto the servant a great variety of spiritual gifts, just as the nobleman has given to the each of this servants a talent of a pound. The most interesting thing that I find in the above scripture, is the fact that Jesus quantifies the gifts that are give are give according to the ability of the servant. Why would Jesus give us a gift that we could not or would not be able to use. One of the most interesting thing about God is that he knows us inside and out, every hair on our head, every thought in our minds and has equipped each of us with the giftedness that is unique to our ability, character and willingness.

“His lord said unto him, Well done, *thou* good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.”

I believe that we are all well aware of the servants response to what the master had given to them. We should all look for the response to our giftedness and the way that it is used for the Kingdom from God to be well done. Anything less than well done means that we have not done enough with what God gifted us with.

The truth of the kingdom is that there is a high price for giftedness. God is expecting interest on his investment of the Holy Spirit.