

Great Stories of the Bible - 05/01/22

The Lost and Found Parables

TEXT- Luke 15:1-3 *Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them. And he spake this parable unto them, saying,*

INTRO – A parable that Jesus told during the middle of His Passion Week ignited the ultimate anger of the Jewish leaders. Chapter 11 of John ends with the leaders of Israel wanting to seize Him after they learned of the raising of Lazarus from the dead. They feared too many people would follow Him and that would allow Rome to take full control of their country.

Then in the middle of the week and He tells a parable (**The vineyard and the tenants**) recorded in Mark 12. The end of that parable says the same thing, “They were looking for a way to seize Him.” It really was a combination of the raising of Lazarus and the telling of that parable that precipitated the human activity that led to His execution.

Mark 12:12 *And they sought to lay hold on him, but feared the people: for they knew that he had spoken the parable against them: and they left him, and went their way.*

John 11:53 *Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death.*

There are about 40 parables in the Bible. They're only in the synoptic gospels - Matthew, Mark, and Luke. No parable is in John. After the Jews accused Jesus of doing His miracles through the power of the devil He began to speak in parables.

Matthew 12:31 *Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.*

1. **parabole** "a placing beside" It signifies "a placing of one thing beside another" with a view to comparison.

His kingdom parables are found in Matthew 13

Matthew 13:1-3 *The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side. 2 And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. 3 And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;*

Matthew 13:13 *Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.*

In Luke 15 we find 3 parables that are spoken to the Jewish leaders. The third parable of the prodigal son reminds us of Jesus purpose in coming.

I. The Purpose

Luke 19:10 *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

The goal of a parable is to compare one thing to another—with one of the objects being an important spiritual lesson and the other being an event from everyday life. Here Jesus is illustrating the complacency and lack of concern for sinners.

A. To illustrate man's natural concern for basic things in life – Money (Piece of silver) and livestock (One lamb)

1. Men live for fame
2. Men live for fortune
3. Men live for friends
4. Men live for fleshly desires

Divorce, drug addition, death

Bill Gates, the Microsoft co-founder is worth a massive \$130.2 billion, according to Forbes. He is one of eight moguls worth more than \$100 billion and is the fourth-richest person in the world. Along with Microsoft, which Bill co-founded with Paul Allen in 1975, Bill and Melinda also own a \$125 million estate in Washington, a private airplane, a luxury car collection, and a \$43 million home in Del Mar, California.

Movie stars in court – Johnny Depp and Amber Heard

B. They would care about their own family member or son

The first two parables Jesus states, “What man of you? and “What woman of you?” **The third parable he doesn't say they would care about the lost son.**

C. Why wouldn't they care about the souls of men?

2 Peter 3:9 *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

1 John 2:2 *And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

John 3:16-17 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*

The Scripture is clear that His chief aim is to restore men to God through salvation.

1 Timothy 1:15 *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.*

The Jewish leaders had no compassion for sinners.

II. The Comparison

A. The Pharisees were hypocrites of the worst kind.

There are five main passages in the gospels where Jesus is chastised for being with sinners

Jesus rebuked them for their hypocrisy

Matthew 23:19 *Ye fools and blind . . .*

Matthew 23:23-27 *Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.*

Matthew 23:33 *Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?*

B. Jesus offered redemption for the worst sinners

1. Levi the tax collector
2. Mary Magdalene whom Jesus cast out seven demons
3. The demoniac of Gadara
4. Zacchaeus chief among the publican
5. A sinful woman washed His feet with her tears Lu. 7:36

Matthew 9:10-13 *And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.*

Romans 5:8 *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

Isaiah 1:18 *Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.*

1 Timothy 1:15 *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.*

III. The Main Message of the Parables

A. There is joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth.

Luke 15:7 *I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.*

Luke 15:10 *Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.*

B. The Pharisees looked down upon sinners

Everyone was happy except the eldest son.

The value of one soul that repenteth and is saved.

Luke 15:32 *It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.*

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