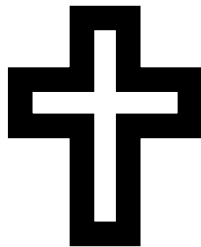


**Twelve Lessons**  
*on*  
**The Parables of Jesus**

*by*  
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**\$6.00**

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## **THE PARABLES OF JESUS – LESSON 1**

### **Mark 4:2**

#### **Lesson Goals:**

1. To teach the student the immense importance of studying the parables for doctrinal purposes.
2. To study the various types of parables.
3. To understand the precepts behind each parable.

#### **Definitions of Important Terms and/or Phrases:**

1. Parable – A short, simple story designed to communicate a spiritual truth, religious principle, or moral lesson; a figure of speech in which truth is illustrated by a comparison or example drawn from everyday experiences. (Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary).
2. Precept – A commandment, an authoritative rule for action; in the Scriptures generally a divine injunction in which man's obligation is set forth (Latin praeceptum, from praecipere, "to instruct"). (International Standard Bible Encyclopedia)
3. Kingdom of God – God's rule of grace in the world, a future period foretold by the prophets of the Old Testament and identified by Jesus as beginning with His public ministry. The kingdom of God is the experience of blessedness, like that of the Garden of Eden, where evil is fully overcome and where those who live in the kingdom know only happiness, peace, and joy. This was the main expectation of the Old Testament prophets about the future. (Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

1. Jesus used Parables. As the master teacher he used parables, simple illustrations and stories taken from everyday life to communicate hidden truths about the kingdom of God. The saying, "a picture is worth a thousand words." Jesus likened every day stories as symbols of what was Biblical truth.
2. What is a Parable? It is a story that illustrates a truth or lesson. Jesus' parables have a double meaning. There is the Literal Meaning, which anyone familiar with farming, working, cooking, etc. could easily understand. Then there is a Deeper Meaning as in the Parable of the Leaven where the woman includes leaven (a type of sin) in the meal. Jesus began to speak in Parables because the Pharisees and Sadducees had already rejected Him.
3. According to who you read after there are 55 to 58 Parables in the Four Gospels. We will divide them into Five Categories.

#### **I. ENVIRONMENTAL PARABLES**

- A. The Sower (Mark 4:3-9; Matt. 13:3-9; Luke 8:5-8)
- B. The Grain of Wheat (John 12:24)
- C. The Tares (Matt. 13:24-30)
- D. The Net (Matt. 13:47-50)
- E. The Husbandman (Mark 4:26-29)
- F. The Mustard Seed (Matt. 13:31; Mark 4:30-32; Luke 13:18)
- G. The Leaven (Matt. 13:33; Luke 13:20)
- H. The Budding Fig Tree (Matt. 24:32; Mark 13:28; Luke 21:19-31)
- I. The Barren Fig Tree (Luke 13:6-9)
- J. The Birds of Heaven (Matth. 6:26; Luke 12:24)
- K. The Flowers of the Field (Matt. 6:28-30; Luke 12:24)
- L. The Vultures and the Carcass (Matt. 24:28; Luke 17:37)
- M. The Tree and its Fruits (Matt. 7:16; Luke 6:43-49)
- N. The Weather Signs (Luke 12:54-56; Matt. 26:2; Mark 8:11-13)

#### **II. OPPORTUNITY PARABLES**

- A. The Thief in the Night and the Faithful Servants (Matt. 24:42-51; Luke 12:32-48)
- B. The Strong Man Bound (Matt. 12:29; Mark 3:27; Luke 11:21)
- C. The Divided Realm (Mark 3:24-26; Luke 11:17-20)
- D. The Unoccupied House (Matt. 12:43-45; Luke 11:24-26)
- E. The Closed Door (Luke 13:24-30)
- F. The Doorkeeper (Mark 13:33-37; Matt. 24:42)

- G. The Importunate Neighbor (Luke 11:5-8)
- H. The Son's Request (Matt. 7:9-11; Luke 11:11-13)
- I. The Unjust Judge (Luke 18:1-8)

**III. PROFESSIONAL PARABLES**

- A. Master and Servant (Luke 17:7-10)
- B. The Faithful and Unfaithful Servants (Matt. 24:45-51; Luke 12:42-46)
- C. The Waiting Servants (Luke 12:35-38; Mark 13:33-37)
- D. The Laborers in the Vineyard (Matt. 20:1-16)
- E. The Talents (Matt. 25:14-30; Luke 19:12-27)
- F. The Candle and the City Set on a Hill (Matt. 5:14-16; Mark 4:21; Luke 8:16, 11:31; Matt. 5:14)
- G. The Light of the Body (Matt. 6:22; Luke 11:34-36)
- H. Salt (Matt. 5:13; Mark 9:50; Luke 14:34)
- I. A Piece of New Garment (Matt. 9:16; Mark 2:21; Luke 5:36-39)
- J. The Householder's Treasure (Matt. 13:52)
- K. The Dishonest Steward (Luke 16:1-9)
- L. The Adversary (Matt. 5:25; Luke 12:58)
- M. The Unmerciful Servant (Matt. 18:23-35)
- N. The Rich Fool (Luke 12:16-21)
- O. The Wicked Vinedressers (Matt. 21:33-41; Mark 12:1-9; Luke 20:9-16)
- P. The Two Builders (Matt. 7:24-27; Luke 6:47-49)
- Q. The Two Debtors (Luke 7:41-43)
- R. The Hidden Treasure (Matt. 13:44)
- S. The Pearl of Great Price (Matt. 13:45)

**IV. SPECIAL OCCASION PARABLES**

- A. The Children in the Market Place (Matt. 11:16-19; Luke 7:31-35)
- B. The Arrogant Guest (Luke 14:7-11)
- C. The Bridegroom's Friend (John 3:28)
- D. The Bridegroom's Attendants (Matt. 9:15; Mark 2:18; Luke 5:34)
- E. The Ten Virgins (Matt. 25:1-13)
- F. The Tower Builder and the Warring King (Luke 14:28-32)
- G. The Wedding Feast (Matt. 22:1-10; Luke 14:16-24)
- H. The Wedding Garment (Matt. 22:11-14)
- I. The Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31)

**V. SALVATION PARABLES**

- A. The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)
- B. The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)
- C. The Sons (Matt. 21:28-32; John 5:19-20; John 3:35)
- D. The Lost Coin (Luke 15:8-10)
- E. The Lost Sheep (Matt. 28:12-14; Luke 15:4-7)
- F. The Shepherd, the Thief, and the Doorkeeper (John 10:1-18)
- G. The Doctor and the Sick (Matt. 9:12; Mark 2:17; Luke 5:31)
- H. The Sheep and the Goats (Matt. 25:31-46)

**NOTE:** Bro. Steve Green with the Lansing Baptist Bible Institute has graciously allowed us to use his notes on the Parables of the Bible. In one section, he lists Parables as Preaching Potential. He has them categorized as follows:

**PRECEPTS**

The Gospel sent from God to save man  
 Vindication of God's Mercy  
 Christ a sufferer  
 Christ the life and support of the Church  
 Christ a Saviour  
 Christ a Saviour  
 Christ a Saviour  
 Christ a Saviour  
 Christ a Saviour

**PARABLES**

The Sower  
 Lost Silver and Sheep  
 Jonah; broken bread  
 Woman in travail  
 Temple; Water; Bread  
 Door; Shepherd; Light  
 Physician; Serpent of Brass  
 Grain in Ground; Rock; Vine  
 The Resurrection and Life

**PORTIONS**

Matt. 13:3  
 Luke 15:1  
 Matt. 12:39; Luke 22:19  
 John 16:21; John 12:24  
 John 2:19; 4:14; 6:35  
 John 19:7, 13  
 Matt. 9; John 3  
 Matt. 16:18; John 15:1  
 John 11:25

The Church a Blessing	Light of the World; Salt	Matt. 5
The Church imperfect	Tares	Matt. 13
The Church transferred	Unfaithful Steward	Matt. 21
The Church will become universal	Mustard Seed	Matt. 13
Satan dispossessed	Strong man armed	Matt. 12
Man a sinner	The Sick	Matt. 9
The Gospel Rejected by	The Two Sons	Matt. 21
Impenitence, unbelief	Two Masters	Matt. 6
Compromise and superficial	Seed on Bad Ground	Matt. 13
Faith	The Ploughman	Luke 9
Convictions Lost	The Unclean Spirit	Matt. 12
Invitations Rejected	The Great Supper	Luke 14
Hypocrisy, Ostentation	Sounding the trumpet	Matt. 6
Hypocrisy, Censoriousness	Mote and Beam; Gnat and	Matt. 7; Matt. 23
	Camel; Cup and Platter	
Hypocrisy, Scrupulousness,	Whited Sepulchre; Covered grave	Matt. 23
False and injurious pretensions		
False teachers	Wolf in sheep's clothing; Blind leaders	Matt. 7; Matt. 15
Receiving the Gospel	Seed in good ground	Matt. 13
Receiving great and difficult change	New Birth; Strait gate	John 3; Luke 13
Receiving forethought exercised	Laying up treasures; Builders	Matt. 6; 7
Receiving forethought exercised	Housekeeper forewarned	Luke 12
Receiving forethought exercised	King going to war, etc.	Luke 14; 16
	Unjust Steward	
Prizing the Salvation of the Lord	The Hidden treasure, the pearl	Matt. 13
Returning home	The Lost Son	Luke 15
Relationship of believer to Christ	The family of Christ	Matt. 12
The service of Christ easy	The Yoke	Matt. 11
Piety, progressive	The Leaven; Growing Plant	Matt. 13; Mark 4
Branches of piety: Humility	The Hired Labourers	Luke 17
Branches of piety; Humility	The Humble Guest; Pharisee	Luke 14; 18
	and Publican	
Love, self denial	Two Debtors; Offending Hand	Luke 7; Matt. 6
Forgiveness, simplicity	Relentless Servant; the Sound eye	Matt. 18:6
Kindness	Good Samaritan; Benevolent Host	Luke 10:14
Trust in Providence	Birds and Lilies	Matt. 6
Prayer Importunate	The Friend, the Importunate Widow	Luke 11; 18
Prudence and good sense	The Pearls; New Cloth and Wine	Matt. 7; 9
Prudence and good sense	The Children of the Bridechamber	Matt. 7; 9
Confessors and Martyrs	Sheep among wolves; the Husbandman	Matt. 9; 22
True Ministers Wanted	Instructed Scribe; Harvest	Matt. 10; 13
Principles of Action	The Tree recognized	Luke 6
Actions betray character	Good and Bad Tree	Matt. 7
Signs of the times	The Tree; the Lightning	Matt. 24
World unreasonable	Children in Market Place	Matt. 11
Death ends probation	Dives and Lazarus; Rich Fool	Luke 16; 12
Judgment certainty of	Ax at root; Deluge	Matt. 3;24
Judgment certainty of	Servant rioting	Matt. 24
Judgment, day of discrimination	Drag-net; Sheep and Goats	Matt. 13;25
Judgment, day of discrimination	The Fan; Wedding Garment	Matt. 3;22
Judgment, day of discrimination	The Ten Virgins	Matt. 25
Judgment, dreadful account	The Barren Figtree	Luke 13
Judgment, dreadful account	The Buried Talent	Matt. 25
Retribution	The Absent King	Luke 19