

Parables of the Kingdom ~ 1

Everyone enjoys listening to stories! Jesus was a Master storyteller, and used stories in His teaching. Many of these stories are called 'parables'.

What is a parable?

A parable is an illustration taken from daily life, or the things around us that teach spiritual truths. Not every detail of the story has a meaning, but the story is used to teach one main truth.

Why did Jesus use parables?

The disciples asked Jesus this question in Matthew 13. His answer seems difficult to understand, but the picture of a seed may help us.

A parable is like a seed. The shell on the outside of the seed is like the story that everyone could hear and enjoy, but the meaning was hidden inside. When those whose hearts were hardened by sin heard the parable, they listened to the story but could not see the true meaning. However those with faith heard and understood the true meaning of the story and were drawn closer to God.

Parables in the Gospel of Matthew

In the Gospels there are about 60 different parables – some long, others short. Many are found in the Gospel of Matthew. In Matthew 18 there are two parables that Jesus uses to help answer questions the disciples asked about our relationships in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Relationships with one another in the Kingdom **Matthew 18:1-14**

The disciples were just like us! The questions they asked Jesus show that they struggled with pride and unforgiveness just as we do. These are two things that destroy our relationships with one another. They are opposite to the qualities that belong to the Kingdom, which are humility and forgiveness.

1. HUMILITY **Matthew 18:1-14**

The question v1: _____

The answer: _____

a.) Jesus uses a child as an example **v2-10**

What lessons do you think Jesus wants us to learn from a child?

b.) Jesus uses a parable as an illustration **v10-14**

What lessons can we learn from this story?

2. FORGIVENESS

Matthew 18:15-35

Jesus goes on to teach how to be reconciled with a brother or sister when there is a broken relationship. Often we try and solve these problems in the way the world, or our culture does. However as Christians we are to live according to the Word of God.



What are the steps we should take when someone has sinned against us?
v15-17

We need to remember Jesus gave these instructions after speaking about humility. Reconciliation will only take place when we act in humility and are willing to forgive our brother. When Jesus taught these things it prompted Peter to ask Jesus another question.

The question v21: _____

The answer: _____

Jesus uses a parable as an illustration **v22-35**

Read through these verses yourself and write down the lessons you learn from the story.

In the parable the King forgave His servant for the huge debt he owed, and yet this servant was unwilling to forgive another man who owed him just a small amount. God has forgiven us a huge debt. In fact it cost the life of His Son. Nothing anyone does to us compares with this. If God has forgiven us so much, then we too must forgive others, not just 7 times, but every time. This is Kingdom living.