

MEET YOURSELF IN LUKE'S PARABLES

Part 1: Introduction to Luke's Gospel and Parables

INTRO: We all love a good story especially if we can personally identify with someone in the story. For the most part the parables are stories, where familiar real life images are used to explain important spiritual truths. Some of Luke's unique parables are some of the best known and loved stories in the world, even to unbelievers (ex.-Prodigal Son, Good Samaritan). To better understand the parables of Luke it helps to have a basic understanding to Luke's gospel.

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

DATE/AUTHOR: Luke is not the first gospel, Mark's is, probably A.D. 50s. Luke followed as a second opinion in the 60s. As a Gentile (only Gentile Author in NT) physician (Col. 4:14). Dr. Luke saw Jesus uniquely. Luke's gospel is the longest of the four. It is one of the three synoptic Gospels (Matthew & Mark). Luke also wrote Acts.

AUDIENCE – Both Luke and Acts address “Theophilus” (Lk. 1:1-4; Acts 1:1-3). Together these are 28% of the NT. Luke was a traveling companion of Paul on final two journeys. They probably met in Tarsus, Paul's home, while Luke was in med school. Paul may have led Luke to Christ (Acts 16 ff “we” sections). Luke focuses on the humanity of Jesus, using “Son of Man” (25Xs) as his favorite title. Luke presents Jesus as the Savior for all, not just the Jews (Lk. 19:10). In Luke's gospel we see first-hand our Lord's compassion for the underdog – women, down and out, etc.

COMPARISON OF SYNOPTIC GOSPELS

Book/Author	Matthew	Mark	Luke
Written to	Jews	Romans	Greeks
Features	Sermons	Miracles	Parables
Jesus is	Messiah King	Suffering Servant	Son of Man
Total/Unique Parables	23/12	8/2	31/19

FLOW of GOSPEL OF LUKE (Lk. 19:10) – The Son of Man:

- COMES-Birth to Temptation (1:1-4:13) – first thirty years largely in Bethlehem, Nazareth, and Judea
- SEEKS to serve and minister in miracles (4:14-9:50) and in parables (9:51-21:38) lasting about 6 months as travels to Jerusalem and cross. Section 9:51-19:27 in 60% unique to Luke. 18 of Luke's 19 unique parables in travels to Jerusalem.

- SAVES (19:28-24:53) – 8+50 days

Chart of Life of Christ in Luke

Map of Palestine in the time of Christ

TEACHING IN PARABLES

WHAT IS A PARABLE? The term means “to place something alongside something else” for comparison purposes. This story form of teaching takes something familiar (seeds, salt, etc.) and uses it to illustrate a spiritual truth – an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. The word is used 48 times in the first three Gospels. Serve as mirrors to see ourselves and windows to see the heart of God.

WHY DID JESUS TEACH IN PARABLES?

This was a common form in Jewish teaching. The OT has parables (Isa.5, 2 Sam. 12). Jesus didn't invent them but He used extensively. He told 35 different parables in all. Matthew has 12 unique. Mark has 2. Luke has 19. None in John's Gospel. We tend to think best in pictures. Jesus told stories in parables to paint vivid pictures using normal images to explore spiritual truth. They both revealed and concealed truth (Matt. 13:10-17)...Truth hardens and softens.

HOW BEST STUDY THE PARABLES?

- Understand the *context* – responding to a question, explaining an event.
- Search for the one main *truth*. Every detail isn't a new truth.
- Pray and ask God for *wisdom* and application.

WHAT ARE THE PARABLES ABOUT? Forgiveness, neighborliness, prayerfulness, covetousness, watchfulness, fruitfulness, selflessness, lostness, faithfulness, ...

LESSONS FROM PARABLES IN LUKE?

Jesus, as the Son of Man, fully Man and fully God,

- *Truly understands what real life is all about.* He knows where we live and work. Is deeply touched by real human needs. He is compassionate – kneeling by lepers, lifting up women, relieving suffering. He knows pain (Heb. 2:17-18; 4:15-16)
- *Is bringing real comfort to the hurts of our lives*

CONC: Exciting study ahead. Don't miss.