

PARABLES OF JESUS



“And He said to them, ‘To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables.’” ~ Mark 4:11

PURPOSE

To begin to understand the purpose of the parables and some of the lessons therein.

LEARNING

1. What is a parable?

2. There is a two-fold purpose in Christ's use of the parables. What are these two purposes? Read Matthew 13:9-17 to help guide your answer.

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3. What do we need to hear and understand the parables? Name three things. (See John 16:7-15 especially verse 13, 1 Corinthians 2:7-16 especially verse 12, and Matthew 13:10-17 especially verse 10.)

4. The Kingdom of heaven came partly when Jesus entered the world and lived out God's purposes for Him, but it will only be complete with Christ's second coming. So many of the parables start with 'The Kingdom of heaven is like...' (ex. Matthew 13:24) What is meant by the kingdom of heaven/God?

5. Which three gospels can we find Christ's parables in?

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6. Ultimately, Christ is the subject of many of the parables, the King of the kingdom. Look up the following passages and write down who or what Christ is being compared to.

<i>a</i>	Matthew 25:1-12	
<i>b</i>	Matthew 13:44	
<i>c</i>	Matthew 13:46	
<i>d</i>	Luke 15:4-7	
<i>e</i>	Luke 14:16-24	

7. Read the parable of the sower. (Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23, Mark 4:1-9, 13-20, Luke 8:4-15)

a) What is the seed?

b) What is the work of the sower?

c) What is the goal symbolized in the work of the sower? (See Matthew 13:23)

d) What does it mean when it says "bear fruit"? (See Luke 8:12 and Hebrews 13:15)

e) Using Luke 8; Fill in the chart below with the four kinds of soil and the four kinds of hearers. Read the listed reference passage for a further explanation of the picture of the human heart.

	Type of Soil	Christ's Explanation of the Hearer	Reference Passage
1			Proverbs 18:2
2			Psalm 129:6
3			Luke 16:33
4			James 1:21

- b) Should we still proclaim the gospel everywhere even if the ground may not appear fertile? (See Ecclesiastes 11:6 and Canons of Dort II Article 5.)

8. Read the parable of the net. (Matthew 13:47-52)

- a) When will the separation take place?

- b) How does Christ refer to the bad fish? _____ the good fish?

- c) Why is it not simply a division of people who are good and people who are bad? See Romans 3:23 to guide your answer.

- d) Who are "the just"? See Romans 3:24.

APPLICATION

1. What is your favourite parable and why?

2. In paragraph form, summarize either the parable of the vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16) **OR** the parable of the good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37). Ask your parents or your counsellor to help you understand the meaning of the parable and include this explanation in your paragraph.

COUNSELOR SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____