

Summary of the Parables

Jesus uses stories to illustrate to the multitudes (the crowds) that were following Him to describe their spiritual state. Most of the times, he was answering questions from the government and religious rulers (Scribes and Pharisees) of that time. He knew that He had to answer them by telling a story because if He were to answer the question, they could accuse Him of blasphemy.

Lesson 1 The Parable of the Soil

Luke 8:4-15

Luke 8:4–15 ⁴And when a great multitude had gathered, and they had come to Him from every city, He spoke by a parable: ⁵“A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. ⁶Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. ⁷And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. ⁸But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold.” When He had said these things He cried, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” ⁹Then His disciples asked Him, saying, “What does this parable mean?” ¹⁰And He said, “To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that ‘Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.’” ¹¹“Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹²Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. ¹³But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. ¹⁴Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.

¹⁵But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

The Parable Setting...

Three types of soil... 1) 2)
3)

What does the soil represent?

Who is the Sower?

What does the Sower do?

What does the seed represent?

What other things/people are mentioned in this parable?

The big picture summary of this parable...

How does this apply to me and you today?

Give me one truth that might be overlooked in this parable

My opinion on this parable

The one overlooked truth that can be found in this parable is that the enemies (the birds) or your surroundings (side of road and in thorns) will always hinder the seed from reaching it's fullest potential.

Three types of soil...

The path- the is a hardened area that is well traveled by many people. The seed could have been easily overlooked by many travelers on the path.

Rocky soil- little to no dirt found here. The seed in this area and has many competitors to survive. The seed starts out strong, but loses strength to more well established plants. (v's 7 choked out the seed)

Good ground- no competition... the seed is in a field that is all theirs. The seed's concentration can be on establishing a good, strong, and sturdy foundation.

Explanation...

Jesus Christ is the Sower that sows the seed of His word into our lives. The only thing that we determine is what kind of soil our heart will consist of... the soil is the condition of our heart. Is our heart calloused? Is our heart crowded? Is our heart cultivated?

Application...

What is one truth we can take from a calloused heart?

What is one truth we can take from the crowded heart? How does a heart become crowded?

What is one truth that we can take away from the cultivated soil?

Taking it home w/ us...

Notice v's 14... ¹⁴Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.

What is interesting is that Christ says they heard the same message that the cultivated ground heard. The only difference is that good things (noticed the underlined parts), not bad things crowded their life and choked the word of God out of their life.

Lesson 2 The Wheat and the Tares

Matthew 13:24-30;37-43

Matthew 13:24–30 ²⁴Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. ²⁶But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. ²⁷So the servants of the owner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’ ²⁸He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The servants said to him, ‘Do you want us then to go and gather them up?’ ²⁹But he said, ‘No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.” ’ ’ ”

Matthew 13:37–43 ³⁷He answered and said to them: “He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. ³⁹The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. ⁴⁰Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age.

⁴¹The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, ⁴²and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

The parable setting...

One important truth that can be missed in this parable is to not jump to conclusions. According to v's 27, the landowner's first instinct was to blame the servant.

How is the field considered the world according to v's 37?

Why would Jesus say that the weeds are the evil ones? Why is this such a problem?

What is the only way you can distinguish the real plant from a counterfeit?

Explain how the enemy can sneak in and plant negativity in to our life?

My opinion of this parable...

The enemy always attacks when we are sleeping or not paying attention (v's 25).

We must know that the enemy is going to sow negativity around us.

The most important thought to take away is how devastating a weed lived it's entire life thinking everything is ok. Then as harvest came, the weed was picked and thrown into the fire because of the production (or lack of).

Did you also pick up on the fact that the owner (Jesus Christ) allows the weeds to stay and never gets rid of them until the time comes? What can this resemble to us or how can it relate to us?

What to take home w/ you...

Give me something that we should all take from this parable?

What did we leave out?

Do you agree or disagree with the interpretation of this parable you have heard today?

Lesson 3 Two house, Two foundations

Luke 6:46-49

Luke 6:46–49 ⁴⁶“But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say? ⁴⁷Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: ⁴⁸He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. ⁴⁹But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great.”

The Parable...

2 Builders, with the same intentions, but 2 totally different outcomes.

In your opinion, what made the difference in the two houses being built?

My opinion of this parable...

The houses are not the most important parts of this parable...

The instructions are not the most important part of this parable...

Building the houses are not the most important part of this parable...

BUT

Observing the situation and going the extra mile to remove what needs to be removed before ever building the house is what we should notice.

The main idea of this parable can be the importance of a strong foundation and the willingness to find a sturdy foundation is what we should focus on today.

Insight...

The key verse in this parable could be verse 47...

- **Jesus gives us three commands that we must follow each time when it comes to building our relationship with Him a little stronger.**
 - **Jesus says, 1) comes 2) hears 3) and does**
 - **Until you come, you cannot hear or do what needs to be done**
 - **When you do come, you still have to make the choice to hear what is being said...**
 - **If you come and hear but don't respond by doing, you have not accomplished anything...**
- **Jesus ends v's 47 by saying I will show you who you are like...**

- **What does this mean to you?**

What to take home w/ you...

Building on a sturdy foundation means doing the work to build on the sturdy foundation... It will mean removing some “junk” out of our lives in order to build a sturdy house.

The sad part of this parable is how it ends... notice v’s 49... “and the ruin of that house was great.”

Give me something that we should all take from this parable?

What did we leave out?

Do you agree or disagree with the interpretation of this parable you have heard today?

Lesson 4 The Good Samaritan

Luke 10:30-37

³⁰Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

³²Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. ³³But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' ³⁶So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" ³⁷And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

The Parable...

One man beaten

One man too holy to stop

One man too hurried to stop

One man too humbled to go

Background of this parable...

Samaritan's were considered a mixed breed of the 12 tribes Israel and sprinkled in with Gentile blood as well. The Gentiles didn't acknowledge them because they had Jewish blood in them... Israel didn't acknowledge them because of Gentile blood.

Another view of this Parable...

Let us not focus too much on the Samaritan today, but rather focus on the man that was beaten half to death.

Jesus Christ pulls for the underdog... He gives the ones a chance when the world shuns them.

Jesus praises them as the world is shunning them...

I wonder if this man that received the beating would have resisted help from the Samaritan if he wasn't desperate for help?

- I think that we can learn just as much from the man that was beaten as we can the Good Samaritan...

- This man was desperate to the point that he would accept any help that he could find.
 - Sometimes when we walk through life and we feel half-beaten, God might be humbling us where we will accept help from the least of these.

Insight...

In v's 34, there is one phrase that separates the Good Samaritan from the Priest and Levite... that phrase is "so he went to them."

Why do you think I say this is the most important phrase mentioned?

In God's eyes, the only thing that separates the Samaritan from the Priest and the Levite, is that one phrase... he went to him...

- God doesn't look at your status in the church or how much work you do in the church. What God looks at is if we are willing to go after the ones in need.

What to take home w/ you...

Jesus wants us to slow down and help the ones in need... don't be too busy where you miss an opportunity to minister to the ones that have fell among thieves.

Give me something that we should all take from this parable?

What did we leave out?

Do you agree or disagree with the interpretation of this parable you have heard today?

Lesson 5 The Prodigal Son

Luke 15:11-32

Luke 15:11–32 ¹¹Then He said: “A certain man had two sons. ¹²And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.’ So he divided to them his livelihood. ¹³And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. ¹⁴But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. ¹⁵Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. ¹⁶And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! ¹⁸I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, ¹⁹and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.”’ ²⁰“And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. ²¹And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

22“But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.

23And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; **24**for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry. **25**“Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. **26**So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. **27**And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.’ **28**“But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. **29**So he answered and said to his father, ‘Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. **30**But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.’ **31**“And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. **32**It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.’ ”

The Parable...

One dad and two sons...

Background of this parable...

You fill in the blank...

Another view of this Parable...

Let us look at the other son in this parable... because we can learn just as much about him than we can about the prodigal son...

The eldest son has honored his father all of these years. He has work and help his father... but we see that the power of possessions is at the root of both brothers heart.

One brother is receiving and the other brother is mad because he hasn't received... notice v's 12 and v's 29...

Explain to us what the power of possessions can have on us according to v's 12 and v's 29?

Insight...

The turning point in this parable is found in v's 17... what is the phrase that shows us the turning point in this parable?

- If we are the prodigal son, nothing will ever get any better until we get past ourselves...

Another turning point is in v's 20 what is the phrase that shows us this other turning point?

Application:

It starts with us coming to ourselves (v's 17) and realizing that we are the problem and we created this problem THEN it should lead us to v's 20. Coming back home to the father.

Question: If the prodigal son would have never responded like he did in v's 20, would forgiveness or reconciliation take place?

It is my opinion that forgiveness and reconciliation would not have taken place if he did not respond as he did in v's 20.

- In v's 17, he is talking it... in v's 20 he is walking it.
 - You cannot just talk it, you walk it as well.
- Forgiveness always requires an action on our part...

What is it so hard for us to walk it?

Did you notice how the father responded?

- **The father is always looking for us to come back home...**

The other son... at home, doing what he was supposed to do, and honoring his father by obeying his father, but he is angry...

- **This shows us that we can be at the right place doing the right things but when the focus is on us instead of the father, we have missed it all.**
- **Many of us cannot enjoy fellowship with the father because things at the father's house are not going as you planned.**

What to take home w/ you...

My question for you today is, which one is truly the prodigal son?

Give me something that we should all take from this parable?

What did we leave out?

Do you agree or disagree with the interpretation of this parable you have heard today?

Lesson 6 The Sheep and the Goats

Matthew 25:31–46 ³¹“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. ³³And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. ³⁴Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; ³⁶I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’ ³⁷“Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? ³⁸When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? ³⁹Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ ⁴⁰And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’ ⁴¹“Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’

⁴⁴“Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’ ⁴⁵Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ ⁴⁶And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

The Parable...

The difference between the sheep and the goats

Background of this parable...

The final judgement is coming for us all. Christ explains that our actions will show who we are... Christ is looking for sacrificial love as the determining factor of what is truly in your heart.

Another view of this Parable...

As Christ is explaining to the goats, we must see that we have the same idea of “working for Christ is .”

- According to v’s 35-40, the sheep, the ones Christ considered righteous, did not even think that they were worthy of being pointed out of doing the work for God.
 - Because of v’s 37-39, their motive of doing the work of Christ is given...

they did not even think they were living a certain way, but Christ noticed it.

What Christ wants us to grasp from this parable is that when we sacrificially help the ones in need or include the ones that might be different than us, Christ is pleased.

Lesson 7 Marriage Supper

Matthew 23:1-14

Matthew 22:1–14 ¹And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: ²“The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, ³and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. ⁴Again, he sent out other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.” ’ ⁵But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. ⁶And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. ⁷But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. ⁸Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. ⁹Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.’ ¹⁰So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment.

¹²So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless.

¹³Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

¹⁴“For many are called, but few are chosen.”

The Parable...

The King- who is God

The Son- who is Christ the Son

The Friends- us

The invitation- God’s word (the bible)

The Meal- church

Background of this parable...

This parable has multiple ways that we could go... I choose to focus on the preparation of the King and the response of the friends.

Another view of this Parable...

Excuses to the king are not tolerated... the king offers his best for his son and the lack of respect or the lack of prioritizing the son in the friends life is a picture of how we prioritize Christ in our lives sometimes.

The invitation is given to the one that have a connection to the son, but just the invitation is not good enough in the king's mind.

- Many of us treat Christ like the friends... they think just an acquaintance with the friend is good enough.
- According to v's 3-5 just an acquaintance with the family is not acceptable.

Questions:

Explain how the wedding feast can represent church?

Explain how the invitation can represent God's word?

Did you notice the progression found at the end of v's 3 to the beginning of v's 5?

What does Christ mean in v's 8 about the ones not being worthy?

Does the king have a reason to be this angry? If so, don't we think that Christ is angry with us in the same way when we prioritize something above church?

Did you pick up on the fact that what makes you worthy to attend the feast? The invitation does not make you worthy but your willingness to prioritize the feast above all is what makes you worthy.

Something else to think about...

Christ ends this section by pointing out that the ones that have an acquaintance must also prepare properly when/if they show up... notice v's 12.

Are we preparing properly to be in the presence of the king?

Lesson 8 Talents Matthew 25: -14-30

Matthew 25:14–30 ¹⁴“For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. ¹⁵And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. ¹⁶Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. ¹⁷And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. ¹⁸But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord’s money. ¹⁹After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰“So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’ ²¹His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ ²²He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’ ²³His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ ²⁴“Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where

you have not scattered seed. ²⁵And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.'

²⁶“But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. ²⁷So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. ²⁹For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

The Parable...

The master- is Jesus Christ

3 servants- is a picture of us... we all can relate to one of them

The talent- is our investment to the church (our gifts)

a talent was known as the highest currency in the Roman Empire

The background...

The master expects you to invest in what he has given you... what he has instilled in you, he is expected to invest it.

- Also this parable shows us that not all people are created equal...BUT since we are not created equal, we all are not expected to perform at the same level.
 - Since we are not created equal, more is invested in others and more is expected out of those people.
 - No matter how much or how little is expected in us, we are to perform at the best of our abilities.
 - God expects us to give 100%

Other insight to pull from this parable...

No matter what we have been given to invest in to the kingdom, we are expected to commit to using the talents to glorify God.

- Many people invest their talents in the church (their gifts), but they are investing them for themselves not investing them for the Lord.

How do we know if someone is investing their talents for themselves and not the Lord?

- **According to v's 24&25, the focus is on them, but the cover up their motive by justifying what others are doing...**
 - **In v's 24, they put the focus on someone else**
 - **In v's 25 they give an excuse based on someone else's influence.**
 - **They also play it safe but cover it up by putting the blame on someone else.**

The Christian life is not about playing it safe, but investing what you have to reach more for the kingdom...

What are some reasons we see people not investing in the kingdom of God the way the master wants people to invest?

We probably all think that it means more work, but one reason people are unwilling to invest is because of change.

- **The major reason people don't like change is because they might not have as much power if they invest and bring more people around them.**
 - **This leads to just bringing in ones around us that will listen to us and we can control.**

People with this mindset according to v's 26 is described as a _____ and _____ servant.

Then how Christ, the master, makes a statement that these kinds of "servants" do not want to hear... "you knew."

- They know they are wicked, but they continue to act this way because they are in control of the situation as long as they do not bring in more by investing more.

The point to take home today...

We might see more servants like this last one in the church today than seeing servants like the first two...

- No change... let me not invest because I can control what I have...

Then the worst part of this parable is that the master says give your talent to the one that is willing to invest and has a mindset to reach and expand the kingdom.

Lesson 9 Unmerciful Servant

Matthew 18:23-35

Matthew 18:23–35 ²³Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. ²⁶The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ ²⁷Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. ²⁸“But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ ³⁰And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. ³¹So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. ³²Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me.

³³Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' ³⁴And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. ³⁵"So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

The Parable

The master- Jesus Christ

2 Servants- 1) one that receives compassion from the master 2) one that does not receive compassion from the servant

The background

We see the dangers of someone forgetting the compassion that the master has granted to them... we see their motives play out by how he treats the other servant.

- No matter what we tell the master, our motives are clearly seen in how we treat others that are around us.

The meat of the Parable

Did you notice that that two servants basically use the same wording? Notice v's 26 and then v's 29

What can we learn by these two verses?

Why is it so important to practice what we preach?

Many of us live life like the first servant by not thinking that judgment will come against us in how we treat others... we believe the rules do not apply to us.

- **We are reminded that someone is always watching how we respond to certain situations.**

Why do certain people act like servant #1? What makes them act like this?

Did you notice the actions of servant #1 in v's 28?

We live in a world that some will take us by the neck and want to cut our throat... but never forget that others are watching

The main thing to take home today...

We are challenged to live by v's 35... we must forgive and true forgiveness comes from the heart.

Lesson 10 Parable of the two sons

Matthew 21:28-32

²⁸“But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, ‘Son, go, work today in my vineyard.’ ²⁹He answered and said, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he regretted it and went. ³⁰Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said to Him, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw it, you did not afterward relent and believe him.

The Parable

Father represents Jesus

The two sons- we represent on of them

The background

The background can found in v's 23... ²³Now when He came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, “By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?”

- Jesus Christ shows the importance of being obedient to the Father's commands.

The meat of the Parable

Actions speak louder than words... our actions and obedience will be what gets us to heaven. Not works getting us to heaven, but taking action on what the master says for us to do.

- The key is to see the false impression of obedience.

This parable also teaches us that some prove to us that they are not as good as they say they are or think they are.

What can we learn from the brother that said no, but ended up doing what the Father asked?

- We should be encouraged to see that we still have time to go back and fix some of the regrets in life.

Questions to ponder...

Which son was the one that was right? Why do you say that?

In v's 29, would you consider that a missed opportunity?

Have you ever treated God like v's 29?

Lesson 11 The Rich Fool

Luke 12:16–23 ¹⁶*Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully.*

¹⁷*And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’*

¹⁸*So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods.*

¹⁹*And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.” ’*

²⁰*But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’*

²¹*“So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”*

²²*Then He said to His disciples, “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on.*

²³*Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing.*

The Parable

A successful business owner who plays it too safe in the eyes of God.

Questions to think about...

- 1) Look at verse 22 and 23 of our text, then think about how verse 18 and 19 make Christ call this successful business man a fool?
- 2) What is the main idea of the parable?
- 3) Let me ask you this... what was this rich man's downfall? Laziness, selfishness, prideful, lack of consideration, or etc...

An important thought to consider...

This man obviously knew what it took to be successful, but he lacked the ability to maintain success...

- One of our biggest downfalls is thinking that we have arrived and we have reached the top.

What could have this man done differently in your opinion?

How this parable relates to us...

How can this relate to us spiritually?

Many times we believe that we the things that we have "stored up" spiritually over the years is enough Jesus for us.

- **Christ calls this man a fool. He looks at us like a fool if we are living a life based on what is in the barn and not trying to attain more knowledge for Him.**
 - **For us, the goods is the knowledge we have attained concerning God, the church, and His word.**
 - **The barn is our mind... we should be adding more knowledge to our barn (mind) and not settling for what is already stored up.**
 - **What we have stored up is for the times of famine that we face (hard times in life).**
 - **Eventually, we will run out of our surplus if we are not constantly putting back.**
- **Grasp today that you have not arrived spiritually. we must continue to gain more knowledge about Christ.**

Lesson 12 The Lost Sheep

Matthew 18:12–14

¹²“What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying?

¹³And if he should find it, assuredly, I say to you, he rejoices more over that sheep than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray.

¹⁴Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

The Background

The Shepherd- is Christ

The Sheep- is me and you

The Missed Main Idea of this Parable

The missing idea of this parable is found in v's 13 surrounding the word “if.”

Why “If” is so important...

The Shepherd (Christ) is about to leave the certain to search after the uncertain. The word if illustrates to us that there is a possibility that the shepherd might not find the one missing sheep.

What can we learn from leaving the certain to search after the uncertain? With that thought in mind, why is the ending of verse 13 so great?

Put yourself in the place of the shepherd, do you leave the certain to search after the uncertain?

You will leave the certain (the 99) search after the uncertain (the 1) when you are desperate enough to find it.

Notice what brings more joy to Christ according to v's 14

- **What brings Christ more joy is when we leave the certain to search out for the uncertain.**

What to take home with you...

What is the 99 in your life and the 1 in your life? It is not a sheep, but the sheep of this parable can represent anything... are you at a point of desperation to leave the certain to seek out the uncertain?