

Parables: More Than Stories

January 4, 2026

Hebrews 1:1-2, “*God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,² in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.*”

Questions to Consider: “*Have I ever used a parable to teach and reveal a truth? Do I think I will use a parable from the Bible to explain God’s will in the future? Do I see myself in any of the parables? If so, which ones?*”

4 Lessons from the Parables:

1. The Importance of Opportunity

Luke 8:18, “*Take care how you listen.*”

Matthew 20:4-5, “*You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.*’ And so they went. ⁵Again he went out about the sixth (3p.m.) and the ninth hour (6p.m.), and did the same thing.”

Matthew 21:28-30, “*A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, ‘Son, go work today in the vineyard.’* ²⁹And he answered, ‘I will not’; but afterward he regretted it and went. ³⁰The man came to the second and said the same thing; and he answered, ‘I will, sir’; but he did not go.”

Luke 10:33, “*But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion.*”

2. The Value of the Kingdom

Mark 4:30, “*How shall we picture the kingdom of God, or by what parable shall we present it?*”

Matthew 13:44-45, “*The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.* ⁴⁵“*Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls.*”

3. The Saving of the Soul

Luke 15:2, “Both the Pharisees and the scribes began to grumble, saying, “This man (Jesus) receives sinners and eats with them.”

Luke 15:6, “Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!”

Luke 15:10, “In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Luke 15:24, “This son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found. ’And they began to celebrate.’”

Matthew 16:26, “What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

4. The Devastation of Separation

Matthew 7:13-14, “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. ¹⁴ For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

Matthew 13:40-42, “So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, ⁴² and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Matthew 13:49-50, “So it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come forth and take out the wicked from among the righteous, ⁵⁰ and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”