

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. ⁵ Again 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.’ ²⁹ And he answered, ‘I will not’; but afterward he regretted it and went. ³⁰ The 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.”*