



SERMON NOTES

Week 3 March 30, 2025

“The Parables of the Kingdom”

Matthew 13:10; Luke 10:25-37; Luke 15:11-32;
Ephesians 2:8-10



I. Review/Introduction

- A. The world as it's supposed to be is the _____ of God.
- B. In the _____ on the Mount, Jesus begins to lay out for his followers the missional, ethical, and spiritual life of the kingdom of God.
- C. Jesus used _____ to explain the heart, character, and will of God and the nature of God's kingdom.
- D. In some ways Jesus's parables functioned like _____. He wanted us to ponder the parables, to think about them and reflect upon them.

II. The Parable of the Good Samaritan

- A. In the first century Judaism, you were required to love your neighbor, who was your fellow _____.
- B. Martin Luther King Jr said the question the priest of Levite asked was “what will happen to me if I stop to help this man?” The good Samaritan reversed the question and asked “If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to _____?”
- C. Jesus followers should ask themselves “What am I doing to help the Kingdom of God to come on _____ as it is in heaven?”

III. The Parable of the Prodigal Son

- A. When the religious leaders saw people who did sinful things they were sure that God was _____ with them.
- B. Jesus is saying God is like the _____ in the prodigal son parable who runs to his lost children to hug them, wrap his arms around them, kiss them, and show them mercy.
- C. There are times in our lives when we all walk away from God and are in need of his _____.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message



ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *March 31 - April 5, 2025*

INTRODUCTION

Jesus of Nazareth was a master teacher, and some of his most well-known teachings are told in short stories called parables. Jesus used parables to tell us something about God, himself, and the Kingdom of God. And in two of his most famous parables he tells us something important about God's will for us and he tells us something important of the character of God.

Monday: Mark 4:33-34, Matthew 13:34-35

Jesus didn't invent the use of parables. For example, when Israel's King David lost his moral compass, the parable shared by Nathan the prophet deftly showed how the king had abused his power. Instead of a scolding, the parable helped David to see himself more clearly. When has a sermon illustration or a story – found in the Bible or elsewhere – given you insight into yourself? How do stories sometimes reach your heart when a lecture won't get through?

Tuesday: Luke 16:14, 19-31

The story focused on an unnamed "rich man" and Lazarus, who had to beg. The rich man feasted while totally ignoring Lazarus "at his gate." Jesus pictured the beggar with virtuous Abraham, while the rich man now begged him to warn his brothers to avoid his sad fate. How did the rich man completely miss the neighbor at his gate? How easy is it for you to do that?

Wednesday: Luke 14:15-24

Pastor Bruce Larsen wrote, "I had a good excuse for not having a more regular quiet time... for Bible reading and prayer. I would pray, 'Lord, I'm so busy. Help me simplify my schedule so I can put You first.' One day He seemed to say, 'Larsen, you haven't missed a meal in years.'" * In what areas are you giving God excuses? How will you lower your internal defenses so that you can be more honest with God and with yourself?

Thursday: Luke 12:13-21

The man in Jesus' story never asked himself, "How much do I need? How much is enough?" As he pondered what to do about his overstuffed barns, he carefully avoided the idea that "Maybe I could give away some of this huge surplus I have." How easy or hard is it for you to be generous with your money or time? What wishes or fears get in the way of living generously?

Friday: Luke 15:1-10

The woman painstakingly searched in a dimly lit peasant home (remember, no electricity) with a straw-covered floor until she found the coin. Jesus ended these parables by saying, "Joy breaks out in the presence of God's angels over one sinner who changes both heart and life." Who are your "coins" – people you value enough to go out of your way to reach out to? Is there someone – family, friend, co-worker – you particularly sense Jesus calling you to "seek and find"?

MOVING FORWARD

Like the Good Samaritan, Christians are called to help our neighbor in need regardless of ethnicity, social status, race, or religion. Jesus followers should ask themselves "What am I doing to help the Kingdom of God to come on earth as it is in heaven?" In the parable of the prodigal son, Jesus says God is like the father who runs to his lost children to hug them, wrap his arms around them, kiss them, and show them mercy. If you have wandered from a relationship with God, he is inviting you to 'come home' with open arms.

* Bruce Larson, The Preacher's Commentary Series, Volume 26: Luke. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Inc. 1983, p. 228-230

*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) Kingdom, B) Sermon, C) parables, D) riddles.
IIA) Israelite, IIB) him, C) earth. IIIA) angry, B) father, C) grace.*