

THE PARABLES OF Jesus

Two Debtors & A Good Neighbor

Lesson 5

Throughout the first month of our study, we've been trying to understand: **what** are parables and **why** did Jesus tell so many of them? So far, we've explored:

1. Parables as pictures of the kingdom that turns the world upside down
2. The "word of the kingdom" (Matt 13:19)
3. The deep, ancient roots of the LORD's vineyard
4. Why parables?

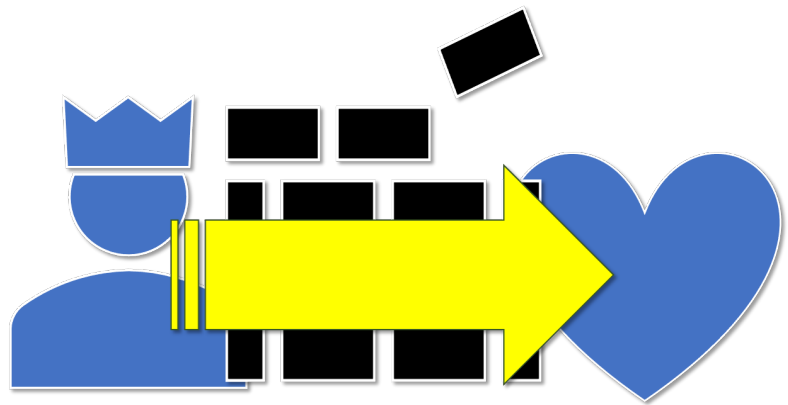
To summarize everything we've studied so far...

✦ We each have a God-given _____.

✦ Jesus is the _____ who has come with news of the kingdom that turns the world upside down.

✦ As human beings, we too often put up _____ between our hearts and the message of this true and rightful King.

✦ _____ are powerful teaching tools that can sneak right past the walls we've put up and "smack us awake" in a sense, forcing us to come face to face with truths we really need to see.



As two good examples, consider Jesus' parables of:

✦ "A certain moneylender had two _____. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will _____ him more?" (Luke 7:36-50)

✦ "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among _____, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance... Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a _____ to the man who fell among the robbers?" (Luke 10:25-37)

The point? Jesus' goal has always been to connect our hearts to the word of the kingdom.



For Class & Family Discussion:

What sort of “walls” do people sometimes put up between themselves and the message of King Jesus? *Why?*

Looking back to **Luke 7:36-50**...

- 🎤 What do we need to understand about the woman (7:37-38)? What sort of “walls” could have easily existed between her heart and the word of the kingdom?
- 🎤 What does Simon the Pharisee mean in 7:39?
- 🎤 What sort of “walls” did Simon have between his own heart and the word of the kingdom?
- 🎤 In your own words, why did Jesus tell Simon a parable? What was his aim?

Looking back to **Luke 10:25-37**...

- 🎤 Does 10:29 give us any insight into what sort of “wall” existed between the heart of that lawyer and the word of the kingdom?
- 🎤 What would have been the typical reaction of Jesus’ hearers when he mentioned “a Samaritan” in 10:33 and beyond?
- 🎤 In your own words, why did Jesus tell that lawyer this parable? What was his aim?