



What is it like?

How often that is asked by someone who has never experienced what you have. And, to help the person understand, we use a common illustration or parallel to explain it.

In many ways, this is what a parable is. Snodgrass uses the expression, "Stories with intent." Parables allow us to see what we would not otherwise see.

In this first lesson, we want to do a quick overview of the concept of parables. This class is going to zero in specifically on the Kingdom Parables.

Mark 4:34 "and He did not speak to them without a parable..."

- Parables comprise 35% of the Lord's teaching
- 2/3 of the parables are in Luke (none in John)
- 60% of the parables (33 of them) are four verses or less
- 16% of the parables (9 of them) are ten verses or longer
- Jesus did not invent parables. There are some in the OT and common in the language of the day

Characteristics of Parables

1. Generally _____ and _____ in nature
2. Built upon _____ stories
3. The stories are true in principle but _____
4. The stories are _____ & _____
 There are two levels of meaning:
 - _____ level: essential to understand next level
 - _____ level: this is why the parable was told
5. Element of _____ and _____

- it was the Samaritan that proved to be a neighbor, and a tax collector who is called righteous

6. People in the parables are _____ described
 - little background, appearance or character revealed
 - "certain man" is a common way Jesus began the parable (Lk 10:30; 12:16; 13:6; 14:16; 15:11; 16:1; 16:19)
7. The ultimate purpose is to awaken _____, stimulate _____ and move to _____
8. Many of the parables are _____ later in the setting
9. There is a _____ or reason behind the telling of a parable

The Parabolic stories were not nice bedtime stories. They involved violence, pain and heartache

- A forgiven man will not forgive another
- A man is beaten and robbed
- A manager cheats his master
- A son promised to do something, but he never did
- A man dies a fool
- A house collapses during a storm
- A man points fingers in judgment during worship
- Doors were shut and some who wanted to enter couldn't
- A man was asked to leave because he wore the wrong outfit
- A worker feels like he is being taken advantage of

- The common definition of a parable is "an earthly story with a heavenly meaning."
 - The word 'Parable' means to 'lay or place alongside.' It is intended to be a _____
 - Jesus used parables to _____ truth to honest hearts and _____ truth from the hardened heart (Mt 13:10-17)
 - The story within the parable tends to _____ in one's memory
 - Parables are _____ in which we see ourselves
- Mk 12:12 "and they were seeking to seize Him, and yet they feared the people, for they understood that He spoke the parable against them"

- often the Lord is answering a question or a charge against Him

10. The Parables are _____ -

emphasis is upon God

11. Most times, there is one _____ thought in the parables

- Do not try to make something of every bird, rock or tree

Jesus declared to Pilate: "My kingdom is not of this world... My kingdom is not of this realm"

- This is one reason why Jesus used many kingdom parables. He wanted His disciples to understand the nature of the eternal kingdom of God
- Seven times in Matthew 13 Jesus says, "The kingdom of Heaven is like..." and a parable follows.