



# MATTHEW'S PORTRAIT OF JESUS

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# TODAY'S AGENDA:

*Jesus' Parables*

*Parables & How They Function*

*Parables in Matthew*

# WHAT ARE PARABLES?

*Dictionary: “A parable is a short, fictitious story that illustrates a moral attitude or a religious principle.”*

*NT usage: “A rather broad genre of illustration, including parable (narrow definition), allegory, similitude, and sample parable, as well as proverb and paradox.”*

# HOW PARABLES WORK

*Parables are Stories. They are designed artistically by their creator to be interesting by using the standard devices of storytelling.*

*Parables are Analogies, verbal comparisons that combine a tenor, a vehicle, and one or more points of resemblance in a structure of logic especially suited to serve as illustration or argument.*

# PARABLES AS STORIES

*brief*

*unified*

*limited number of actors  
(often only two)*

*direct discourse*

*serial development*

*rule of three*

*repetition*

*binary opposition (black  
vs white)*

*end-stress*

*often resolution by*

*reversal*

*usually two-level*

# WHEAT & WEEDS

MATT 13:24-30

*Story: A man sows good seed in his field, his enemy secretly sows weeds on top of them. When discovered, the man's slaves want to remedy the situation right away, but the owner has them wait until the harvest.*

*Tenor: "The kingdom of heaven is like..." Jesus' subject is the kingdom of heaven. He is telling us about certain features of its (future) history, apparently.*

# WHEAT & WEEDS

*Vehicle: The story above is the vehicle. Jesus is telling us about the kingdom of heaven (heavenly subject) by means of an (earthly) agricultural story of an enemy's attempt to spite his neighbor by ruining his crop with weeds.*

*Point(s) of Resemblance: Jesus' story has a number of points of resemblance, not just one, though one of them may well be the main point. What kinds of analogies and points of resemblance can we find? See Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43.*

# PARABLES IN MATTHEW

*Christological Parables:*

*Strong Man Defeated (12:29)*

*Rejected Stone (21:42-44)*

*Parables of Lost & Found:*

*Lost Sheep (18:12-14)*



# JESUS' PARABLES

*Parables of Forgiveness & Mercy:*

*Unmerciful Servant (18:21-35)*

*Day Laborers (20:1-6)*

*Parables on Prayer:*

*Son Asking Bread (7:9-12)*

# JESUS' PARABLES

## *Parables of Transformation:*

*New Patch (9:16)*

*New Wine (9:17)*

## *Parables of Invitation & Rejection:*

*Children in Market Place (11:16-19)*

*Two Sons (21:28-32)*

*Marriage of the King's Son (22:1-14)*

# JESUS' PARABLES

## *Parables of Stewardship:*

*Lamp & Bushel (5:15)*

*Unfaithful Upper Servant (24:45-51)*

*Talents (25:14-30)*

*Day Laborers (20:1-16)*

*Vineyard Workers (21:33-46)*

# JESUS' PARABLES

*Parables of the Second Coming:*

*Vultures & Carcass (24:28)*

*Fig Tree Heralds Summer (24:32-33)*

*Householder & Thief (24:42-44)*

*Wise & Foolish Virgins (25:1-13)*

# JESUS' PARABLES

*Parables of Warning & Judgment:*

*[Axe at Roots (3:10)]*

*[Fan in Hand (3:12)]*

*Tasteless Salt (5:13)*

*Settle out of Court (5:25-26)*

*Eye Light of Body (6:22-23)*

# JESUS' PARABLES

*More Parables of Warning & Judgment:*

*Speck & Log (7:3-5)*

*Wise & Foolish Builders (7:24-27)*

*Empty House (12:43-45)*

*Every Plant not Planted (15:13)*

*Wicked Tenants (21:33-45)*

*Sheep & Goats (25:31-46)*

# JESUS' PARABLES

## *Parables of the Kingdom:*

*Sower (13:3-8)*

*Wheat & Weeds (13:24-30)*

*Mustard Seed (13:31-32)*

*Leaven (13:33)*

*Treasure (13:44)*

*Pearl (13:45-46)*

*Dragnet (13:47-50)*

*New & Old (13:52)*

# JESUS' PARABLES

## *Acted Parables:*

*Cursing the Fig Tree (21:18-22)*

*Cleansing the Temple (21:12-17)*

*Jesus' Baptism (3:13-17)*

*Triumphal Entry (ch 21)*

*Anointing Jesus (26:6-13)*