



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)