

St. Paul's Lutheran Adult Retreat
April 27-29, 2009

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LTSG






Adult Retreat at Hallowood
April 27-29, 2007

Resources
Recommended Books

SCHEDULE


Friday evening, 27 April

- Introduction to the Parables (PDF)
- This Is For the Blind, Muted and Deaf (HTM)
- Questions to keep in mind when reading the parables.pdf
- Parable List - Likem Order with Lecturers' Reading

Saturday, 28 April


- Unto Judea - Precious Water
- Our Mr. Dead Body: Good Samaritan
- Lost and Found Parables of Luke 11 (24th PDF)
- Great Feast
- Secret Seed

www.gettysburgseminary.org/mhoffman/parables/stpaulretreat.htm




Mark 4.10-13

When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables. And he said to them, "To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables; in order that 'they may indeed look, but not perceive, and may indeed listen, but not understand; so that they may not turn again and be forgiven.'"




Are Jesus' parables meant to confuse or to enlighten?



Mark 4.10-13

And he said to them,
"Do you not understand this parable?
Then how will you understand all the parables?"



What is a parable?

- Examples?
 - Aesop's Fables
 - Nathan's story to David (2 Samuel 12)
- Definitions?

Parable:

From the Greek word *parabole* which translates the Hebrew *mashal* which means "to be similar, to be comparable." A parable is an extended metaphor, or simile, frequently becoming a brief narrative, generally used in Biblical times for didactic purposes.

(Not to be confused with an allegory.)
from the Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible

A parable is:

- An earthly story with a heavenly meaning
- An earthy story with heavy meanings

William Herzog

A "Traditional" Approach to the Parables

The lost coin	Luke 15:8-10	Joy over penitence
The prodigal son	Luke 15:11-32	Fatherly love to penitent son
The unjust steward	Luke 16:1-8	Preparation for eternity
Rich man & Lazarus	Luke 16:19-31	Recompense of future life
The unjust judge	Luke 18:1-8	Advantage of persevering prayer
Pharisee & publican	Luke 18:9-14	Self-righteousness and humility
The pounds	Luke 19:11-27	Diligence rewarded; sloth punished

Do Jesus' parables have only one, clearly recognizable point, like a 'sermon illustration'?

Or do they, like art, have multiple meanings?

Are Jesus' parables only understandable within a first-century context?

Or are they more like artistic pieces that have timeless meaning?

Are the parables of Jesus intended to:

- Convey information?
- Challenge perception?
- Cause transformation?

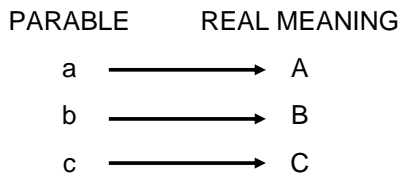
At its simplest the parable is a metaphor or simile drawn from nature or common life, arresting the hearer by its vividness or strangeness, and leaving the mind in sufficient doubt about its precise application to tease it into active thought.

C.H. Dodd *Parables of the Kingdom*

With Jesus, the device of parabolic utterance is used not to explain things to people's satisfaction but to call attention to the unsatisfactoriness of all their previous explanations and understandings.

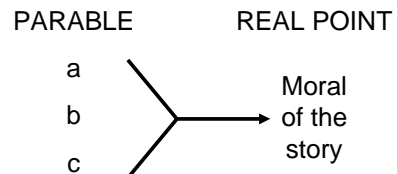
Robert Farrar Capon, *The Parables of the Kingdom*

How do we study the parables?



Parables are more than allegories

How do we study the parables?



Do parables have just one point?

How do we study the parables?

NOT	BUT
What does it really mean?	What is going on here?

How do we study the parables?

NOT	BUT
What is the parable's point?	How is the parable challenging us to experience God's dominion?

**PARABLES
IN
JOHN**