



CONVERSATIONS IN BIBLE FUNDAMENTALS

“And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast: The same came therefore to Philip . . . saying, Sir, we would see Jesus.” John 12: 20, 21



“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” Colossians 3:16

§ - Related Bible Passages:

- Luke 15:10 *“Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”*
- Luke 13:20, 21. *“And again He said, “To what shall I liken the kingdom of God? It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened.”*
- Ecclesiastes 9:5 *“For the living know that they will die; But the dead know nothing, And they have no more reward, For the memory of them is forgotten.”*



Today’s Conversation: - Pastor Daniel Thomas

§ - How should we understand parables in the Scriptures? What role do they play?

Parables are grouped with Solomon’s Proverbs- wisdom literature

§ The Structure of Parables: 1) They convey Universal Truths. 2) They are usually short, simple narratives. 3) They are used to teach a lesson using humans. 4) They provide comparison between two concepts- using the known to give understanding of the unknown.

§ Comparison to Allegories: Parables are similar to allegories – both may be used to teach a lesson however, parables use humans as the main characters while allegories use animal, plants, forces of nature. Allegories are different— they do not necessarily teach a lesson but are usually symbolic.

Revelation 12: 1-6 is an example of an allegory. These verses are a symbolic depiction of the great controversy between Christ and the Devil.

§ Parables in the Old Testament (OT): In the OT, they were used by prophets— Ezekiel, Daniel, Jeremiah, eg., Jeremiah 1:11-14; by judges, e.g., Judges 14:14; by kings, e.g., 2 Kings 14: 9.

§ Parables in the New Testament (NT): Jesus’ parables are some of the most complicated of parables in the Bible. Jesus gives at least 30 parables in the NT. Jesus’ parables are recorded by Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Many use source material from Isaiah e.g., Mark 3: 23; Matthew 13: 3; Hebrews 9: 9 and 11:19.

- The Prodigal Son- Luke 15:11- 32. The Universal Truth: The

§ - In Conclusion:

Parables contain universal truths that give the hearers deeper understandings of the teachings of Christ. Those parables though they use unfamiliar agrarian examples are still applicable today because of the unchanging truths they hold. Christ used them frequently because, as stories, they were effective in conveying the message of salvation. Parables describe the relationship Christ would have with us and the relationship He desires us to have with our fellow human beings.



§ - Next Week's
Conversation Question:

- *Is the God of the Old Testament and the New Testament the same God?*
- *Presenter: Pastor Kristy Hodson*



Understanding Parables (continued)

Father, God, is looking and longing for His children to come home and there is rejoicing at their return.

- The Lost Coin - Luke 15: 8-10. The Universal Truth: Redemption. God loves us, His precious coins. Like the woman, Jesus will do anything to bring us back to Him.

- The Good Samaritan - Luke 10: 30 - 37. The Universal Truth: We should love everyone even our enemies and those who are strangers to us.

- The Rich Man and Lazarus - Luke 16: 19-31. The Universal Truth: Lawlessness has its ultimate consequences — “. . . *what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.*” v. 15. In none of Jesus’ teachings does He negate the theology of death as a sleep without knowledge. The Bible states that the dead know nothing (Ecclesiastes 9:5). The earlier verses (vv. 15-18) give the context and true meaning of this parable. Jesus uses the literary form of Hebrew reversal. In life, the rich man is experiencing greatness and has no concern for consequences. In life, Lazarus the poor man, suffers and experiences rejection. There is a reversal however. At death the circumstances of both men are reversed— That which was good in life now results in torment and that which was looked down on is now exalted.

- Peter’s Vision - Act 10: 9-16. The Universal Truth: All human beings are sacred in God’s sight. Peter, a devout Jew, struggled with whether he should fellowship with the Gentiles. God prepares him to go into the home of a Gentile- Acts 10: 17-35. Peter arrives at Cornelius’ home. As a Jew it was considered unlawful to enter but from his vision he learned, “*God shows no partiality*” Acts 10:34.

- The Seed Sower - Matthew 13: 3-9. The Universal Truth: Only those who are willing to listen and seek will understand “*the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven,*” v. 11. Jesus uses the known to teach the unknown. The parable calls the hearer to study deeper and be committed to God.

§ Application: Parables apply to us today because they hold universal truths. We should be careful about comparisons: Jesus examples were familiar to the people of His time, e.g., catching fish, farming, seasonal changes, Roman occupation. Our social and political situations are different but the universal truths remain the same.

