Stories With Intent – Earthly Stories With Earthly Meanings

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1. The Importance and Relevance of Parables

- Stories disarm and unify.
- The point of the stories isn't the stories.
- How did Jesus seek to change attitude/behaviors with a parable?

2. What Is a Parable?

- A fictious saying picturing truth – parables are fables.
- Parables are used by those trying to get God's people to stop and reconsider their ways.
- A parable's ultimate aim is to awaken insight, stimulate the conscience, and move to action.
- A good parable creates distance provokes and appeals.
- Do not allegorize all the parables!

3. 6 Broad Parable Classifications

Scripture: Matthew 13:33; Matthew 21:28; Luke 14:15–24; 2 Samuel 12:1–14; Matthew 7:11

- Similitudes – an explicit comparison, extended similes. **(Matthew 13:33)**
- Interrogative parables – presented entirely as questions. **(Matthew 21:28)**
- Double indirect narrative parables – narratives in 3rd person. **(Luke 14:15–24)**
- Juridical Parables – elicit a self-condemnation from the hearers. **(2 Samuel 12:1–14)**
- Single indirect parables – "Go and do likewise"
- How much more parables – usually contrast human action with God's action. **(Matthew 7:11)**

4. Parable Characteristics

Scripture: Luke 14:16–24

- Don't expand to fill in details unless explicit implication. **(Luke 14:16–24)**
- Only two groups/people ever together in a scene.
- Every one of these stories demands us on earth today to have a response and to act on those stories.
- Fictional descriptions of everyday life.
- They are addressed during specific contexts of Jesus' ministry.
- They're not about him. They're about what he wants us to do now that we're going to follow him.

5. Distribution of Parables

- Anywhere from 33-65 parables in Jesus' teachings.
- Mark has 4, Matthew and Luke contain majority.
- Early church writings seemed to abandon the parable method of teaching entirely.

6. How to Interpret Them

Scripture: 2 Samuel 12:1–14; Isaiah 5:1–7; Judges 9:17–15; 2 Kings 14:9–10; 2 Samuel 14:1–20; 1 Kings 20:35–42

- If it appears in separate gospels, do comparative analysis.
- Try to read/listen to it with naïve ears.
- Keep them in 1st century context best as you can.
- Several counterparts to Jesus's parables in OT.
  (2 Samuel 12:1–14; Isaiah 5:1–7; Judges 9:17–15; 2 Kings 14:9–10; 2 Samuel 14:1–20; 1 Kings 20:35–42)

7. Why Parables?

Scripture: Matthew 18:23–35; Luke 7:41–43; Luke 15

- Could make bold claims without generating ferocious opposition.
- Sincere hearts would meditate on and grasp the parables meanings.
- First time hearers could spread the word more easily.

MY NOTES