

**PARABLES**

**IN THE**

**BOOK OF LUKE**

Prepared by

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## **LESSON #1: THE GOOD SAMARITAN**

*Answer the following questions from Luke 10:25-37*

1. What was the lawyer's motivation in asking about eternal life?
2. In what way did Jesus show His confidence in the legitimacy of the Old Testament scriptures?

Can you think of other times when Jesus answered with a reference to the Old Testament scriptures?

3. What did the law teach, according to the lawyer?
4. What led the lawyer to ask the question, "And who is my neighbor?"
5. Think about the service rendered by the Samaritan. List several good things about his service that makes this such a good example to us.
6. Can you think of some reasons why the priest and the Levite might not have helped the man who fell among thieves?

7. Is this a story of someone's suffering a mere inconvenience while traveling?

Is it good to help someone who suffers an inconvenience?

Discuss what application is to be made from the parable.

8. Tell of the brief exchange between Jesus and the lawyer after the story was told.

## **LESSON #2: THE FRIEND AT MIDNIGHT**

*Answer the following questions from Luke 11:1-13*

1. Is a distinction to be made between teaching someone **to pray** and teaching someone **how to pray**?

Do we need teaching in both areas?

2. Consider the model prayer in verses 2-4. How many requests are for physical things?

What is that request?

3. What is the primary lesson of the parable of verses 5-8?

4. In these 13 verses, is Jesus teaching us both to pray and how to pray?

Discuss this.

5. What three things are we to do, as taught in verse 9?

6. What is said in verse 13 to teach us that our greatest concern in prayer should be for spiritual well-being rather than for physical well-being?

7. A similar parable is found in Luke 18:1-8. There are differences. Instead of going to a friend, the widow goes to an \_\_\_\_\_. Instead of asking for bread, she asks for \_\_\_\_\_. We will discuss this parable in more detail in a later lesson.

### **LESSON #3: THE RICH FOOL**

*Answer the following questions from Luke 12:13-21*

1. What request did someone make of Jesus?

Did Jesus become involved in the dispute?

2. What warning did Jesus give leading to this parable?
3. Consider the parable of verses 16-21. There were many things wrong in this man's actions. **Think!** List as many wrongs as you can see.
4. What do you see as the primary point that Jesus is making in this parable?
5. **Thought Question:** Is this parable teaching that it is wrong to save a reasonable amount for a "rainy day" or for a time when you will no longer be able to work?

Give the reason for your answer.

6. Consider 1 Timothy 6:17-19. What does God want us to do with the abundance of blessings He showers upon us?
7. In verse 21, Jesus speaks of being "rich toward God." How does one become rich toward God?

**LESSON #4: THE FAITHFUL AND EVIL SERVANTS**

*Answer the following questions from Luke 12:35-48*

1. Read the entire passage. In one word state the primary exhortation the Lord is giving.
2. Why is it so important for one to be constantly watching?
3. What will the master do for those servants whom he finds watching, according to verse 37?
4. What makes it possible for a thief to break into a house?
5. What are the responsibilities of a steward as suggested in verses 42-46?
6. What would cause a steward to neglect his responsibilities, according to these same verses?
7. Who will be beaten with many stripes?  
Who will be beaten with few?
8. One might think that Jesus is teaching degrees of eternal punishment and eternal rewards. But what application does Jesus make in verse 48?
9. Can you think of a passage that teaches that the eternal reward of the faithful will be the same?

## **LESSON #5: THE BARREN FIG TREE**

*Answer the following questions from Luke 13:1-9*

1. What incident was told to Jesus on this occasion?
2. While Jesus denied that bad incidents are necessarily the result of excessive sin, what warning did He give these Jews in verses 3 and 5?
3. **Think!** What does the fig tree of verses 6-9 represent?
4. What were the expectations concerning the fig tree, according to the parable?
5. How is God's longsuffering toward "the fig tree" shown?
6. **Research Question:** List briefly some of the sins of the Jewish nation leading to the destruction of Jerusalem and the nation.
7. Consider Luke 19:41-44. Describe the terrible destruction that was to come to Jerusalem.

What is said of Jesus' grief over its coming destruction?

8. Read Luke 23:26-31. To what do you think Jesus was referring when He spoke of the "dry" wood?

What is the difference between green wood and dry wood?

**LESSON #6: PARABLES SPOKEN AT A FEAST**

*Answer the following questions from Luke 14:7-24*

1. What did Jesus observe, leading to the parable of verses 8-11?
2. Why should a person not seek the best place at a feast?
3. What lesson was Jesus teaching according to verse 11?
4. Consider verses 12-14. Is Jesus teaching that we should never invite close friends and family to our house?

What is He teaching us?

5. What statement was made, leading to the parable of verses 16-24?
6. Considering the parable, how would you describe the attitude of those who made excuses?
7. How did the master of the house react emotionally?
8. What was he willing to do that his house might be full?
9. Discuss briefly what you see as the application of the parable.

There are three different groups pictured. Whom do they represent?

**LESSON #7: THE LOST SHEEP, THE LOST COIN**

*Answer the following questions from Luke 15:1-10*

1. Consider verses 1-2. What is the background of the three parables of chapter 15?
2. What does the shepherd do when one of his sheep is lost, according to verse 4?
3. What expression is used suggesting the perseverance with which he seeks for the lost sheep?
4. John, chapter 10, provides help in understanding relationships between a shepherd of that day and his sheep. Describe this relationship.
5. With this in mind, do you see the shepherd of our parable seeking for his lost sheep for economic reasons or for love and concern for his sheep?
6. Describe his rejoicing when he has found his sheep.
7. What effort does the woman of verses 8-10 make in seeking for her lost coin?
8. Contrast the way a sheep might become lost with how a coin might become lost.
9. What application does Jesus make of these two parables, according to verses 7 and 10?



## **LESSON #8: THE PRODIGAL SON**

*Answer the following questions from Luke 15:11-32*

1. What did the father do at the request of his younger son?

2. **Thought Question:** When did the son leave the father's house **mentally** and **emotionally**?

When did he leave **physically**?

3. What brought the son to his senses?

4. What resolution did the son make?

How would you describe his attitude?

5. Describe the joy with which the father received his penitent son.

6. What is said in verse 29, indicating the self-righteousness of the older brother?

7. The father said to his older son, "All that I have is yours" (v. 31). Look back at verse 12. Was the father's statement true?

Could the older son have killed, not just a goat, but the best calf in the stall anytime he wanted to in order to make merry with his friends?

Why?

8. Discuss as many applications of this parable as you see.

**LESSON #9: THE UNJUST STEWARD**

*Answer the following questions from Luke 16:1-14*

1. Read the parable. What is the primary responsibility of this steward?
2. What problem arises in the steward's life?
3. The steward's solution is to reduce the indebtedness of his master's debtors. What is he hoping to accomplish by doing this, according to verse 4?
4. Did his master commend him for his honesty?  
For what did he commend him?
5. What is mammon?
6. What are we to use in making friends for ourselves, according to verse 9? (If you use the King James Version, you might compare translations.)  
What can these friends do for us, according to this same verse?
7. **Thought Question:** What are some things we can do with money that can make friends for eternity?
8. Does this parable apply only to the rich? Consider verse 10.
9. What choice must every servant make, according to verse 13?
10. How did the Pharisees react to this parable?  
Why?

## **LESSON #10: THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS**

*Answer the following questions from Luke 16:19-31*

1. Questions have been raised as to whether this is a parable or an actual occurrence. How would you answer?
2. Contrast the conditions in which the rich man lived with those of Lazarus.
3. Contrast their conditions after death.
4. What made it impossible for Lazarus to come to the aid of the rich man?
5. What request did the rich man make, as recorded in verses 27 and 28?
6. Would Lazarus' being raised from the dead have changed these brothers?  
Why, according to verse 31?
7. List practical lessons that can be learned from this passage.

**LESSON #11: THE PERSISTENT WIDOW,  
THE PHARISEE AND THE TAX-COLLECTOR**

*Answer the following questions from Luke 18:1-14*

1. What is the purpose of the parable of the persistent widow?
2. What kind of judge was she dealing with?
3. Why did he grant her request?
4. What is the application of the parable, according to verse 7?
5. Consider verse 9. What attitude led to the parable of the Pharisee and the tax-collector (publican)?
6. What did the Pharisee ask for as he prayed?
7. What did the tax-collector ask for?
8. What words would you use to describe the Pharisee?

The tax-collector?