

Class Notes/March 11, 2009
The Parables

A parable is a brief story that illustrates a moral or religious lesson. It often involves a character facing a moral dilemma or decision and suffers the consequences. It also uses metaphor and can be identified by the word "like" or "as" and could be called "an earthly story with a heavenly meaning."

Jesus used parables (almost 1/3 of his teachings in the Bible) to both reveal and to conceal. The word parable comes from a Hebrew word meaning "puzzle". Those seeking the truth about God would have the mysteries of the kingdom opened to them as they have good hearts and are able to listen. Those who do not, would be unable to discern the meaning. Parables appear in Matthew, Mark and Luke.

In general Jesus' parables taught about the Kingdom of Heaven. They all start with "The Kingdom of heaven is like... Specifically they focused on:

The Character of the Kingdom of Heaven

The Mustard Seed, Luke 13:18-19

The Character of the King

Parable of the prodigal son/Lost Coin, Luke 15:11-32

The Great Physician, Matthew 9:10-13

The Character of the King's Subjects

The Good Samaritan, Luke 10:25-37

The Sower, Matthew 13:3-9,18-23

The Ten Talents, Matthew 25:14-30

Read these parables and think about them. What do they tell us about the Kingdom of God and our own actions?