

Two Point

Pharisee and Tax Collector, Lk 18:9-14
Two Builders, Mt 7:24-27; Lk 6:47-49
Unprofitable Servants, Lk 17:7-10
Seed, Mk 4:26-29
Rich Fool, Lk 12:16-21
Barren Fig Tree, Lk 13:6-9
Unjust Judge, Lk 18:1-8
Friend at Midnight, Lk 11:5-8
Householder and Thief, Mt 24:43-44; Lk 12:39-40

(Interpreting the Parables, Craig Blomberg)

🔑 **Key Classifications**

1. Similitude - extended similes, no plot
2. Interrogative – a question sets up a hypothetical situation that forces the hearer to answer
3. Narrative – story with a plot
4. Juridical – brings self-conviction to hearer
5. “How Much More” – Compares human action to God’s action

(Stories with Intent, Klynee Snodgrass)

Assignment: Pick one parable to share the following

1. What is the context of the parable?
2. What is the structure and classification?
3. What is the cultural shocker?
4. What is the questions being answered?
5. What is the point or points of the story?



Lesson 8: Understanding Parables

Jesus’ favorite teaching method was telling stories; we call them parables. Jesus’ parables are among the best known and most influential stories in the world.* This lesson will help to explain the mechanics and what we can learn from parables without falling into the trap of distorting Jesus’ intention for telling the story.

🔑 **The Main Purpose of Parables by Jesus**

A parable is an _____
with a _____ meaning.

* Klyne Snodgrass, *Stories with Intent*, page 1

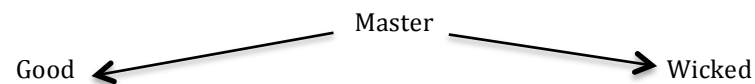
Keys to Understanding Parables, Matt. 13:10-17

1. All parables are about the _____

2. All parables are intended to _____ its listeners.
3. Don't prove any _____ from parables.
4. Parables are not _____
5. All parables are an expanded _____ used to convince or persuade.
6. Finding the _____ a parable addresses is the key in its interpretation.
7. The _____ is usually the punch line of the story.
8. Look for texts where Jesus _____ his own story.

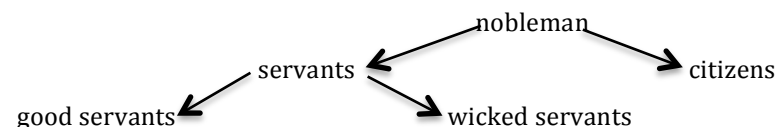
Key Structures in Parables

1. Simple three-point parables



Prodigal Son Lk 15:11-23
Lost Sheep, Lost Coin, Lk 15:4-10; Mt 18:12-14
Two Debtors Lk 7:41-43
Two Sons, Mt 21:28-32
Faithful and Unfaithful Servant, Lk 12:42-48; Mt 24:45-51
Ten Virgins, Mt 25:1-13
Wheat and Tares, Mt 13:24-30, 36-43
Dragnet, Mt 13:47-50
Rich Man and Lazarus, Lk 16:19-31

2. Complex three-point parables



Talents, Mt 25:14-30; Lk 19:12-27
Laborers in the Vineyard, Mt 20:1-16
Sower, Mk 4:3-9, 13-20
Good Samaritan, Lk 10:25-37
Great Supper, Lk 14:15-24; Mt 22:1-14
Unforgiving Servant, Mt 18:23-35
Unjust Steward, Lk 16:1-13
Wicked Tenants, Mt 12:1-12

3. One-point & two-point parables

One Point

Hidden Treasure, Pearl of Great Price, Mt 13:44-46
Tower Builder, Warring King, Lk 14:28-33
Mustard Seed, Leaven, Lk 13:18-21