

INSIGHTS INTO THE LIFE OF CHRIST (Paul E. Engle 2/23)

Session #8 The Parables of Jesus

INTRODUCTION

1. Children and grandchildren
2. Guest Blog in *Scientific American* "It Is Our Nature to Need Stories" (5/8/2013)
3. Social scientists and psychologists have given multiple reasons for this human obsession with stories. For example:
4. Exercise: What are some examples of well-known parables?

I. WHAT DOES THE TERM "PARABLE" MEAN?

- A. Classical Greek: _____
Koine Greek: _____
- B. "A story from everyday life used to illustrate a moral or religious truth." (William Mounce, Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary)
- C. Bailey, Jesus through Middle Eastern Eyes: "A parable is an extended metaphor and as such it is not a delivery system for an idea but a **house** in which the reader/listener is invited to take up residence."

II. HOW MANY PARABLES DO WE HAVE IN THE NT? Guess? _____

- * Which gospels contain parables? _____
- * What % of the recorded teaching of Jesus consists of parables: _____

III. WHAT ARE THE CATEGORIES OF PARABLES?

- A.B. Bruce in The Parabolic Teaching of Christ, 1904, pp. 8ff.
1. Didactic parables focusing on the nature & development of the Kingdom
 2. Service and rewards parables
 3. Prayer parables
 4. Worldly Wealth parables:
 5. Evangelistic Parables
 6. Gratitude of the Redeemed parable
 7. Prophetic and judicial parables
 8. Judgment on Israel and Within the Kingdom

IV. WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF USING PARABLES? The disciples asked this very question of Jesus. What text? _____

1. Jesus used parables as an instrument _____

What happened after his opposition from Pharisees and scribes?

- a. Matthew's explanation: _____
- b. Mark 4:11-12 explanation: _____
The Greek term translated "so that" is *hina*.
- c. William Mounce in *Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary* suggests translating "so that" as what kind of clause? _____

d. Put all this together and you have two forces at work:

1.

2.

e. Exp. Bib. Comm. on Mt. 13) *“one the one hand, the decreed will of God and the result of biblical prophecy and, on the other hand, a terrible rebellion, grows spiritual dullness, and chronic unbelief. This places the responsibility for the divine rejection of those who fail to become disciples on their own shoulders while guaranteeing that none of what is taking place stands outside God’s control and plan.”*

f. So Jesus seems to separate _____ seekers from _____ seekers!

2. Jesus also used parables to move _____.

a. *“It was meant to be a mirror in which they could see what they really looked like. It was intended to draw the hearers to decision, and to give them room to do so—precisely like the incarnation itself.”* (BSTNT, Stott)

b. A dominant theme in Mark is _____—mentioned 13X.

What can prevent hearing? _____ cf. Mark 4:33

V. HISTORY OF INTERPRETATION OF PARABLES

A. Throughout early history (for almost 1,000 years) the most common way of interpreting parables was the _____method

B. Describe it: _____Early leaders

1. Augustine’s treatment of the parable of the Good Samaritan. _____

2. Another example from the parable of the prodigal son. _____

3. 1886 Adolf Julicher a Lutheran pastor and lecturer in Germany wrote a book that rejected the allegorical method and encouraged people to find one central point.

VI. POSITIVE SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO INTERPRET PARABLES

A. _____

B. _____

Disembodied eye 100,000 miles in space.

C. _____

D. Keep in mind _____

E. Look for _____

VII. HOW COULD JESUS BE HEARD SPEAKING PARABLES TO LARGE CROWDS?

A. Cf. Mk. 4:1. (“The Acoustics and Crowd Capacity of Natural Theaters in Palestine.” *Biblical Archaeologist*, 1976. Vol. 39. Num. 4).Conclusion? _____

B. How to personally apply: