

# PARABLES

“The Patch and the Wineskins”

Luke 5

## What is a parable?

**Mark 4:2** And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine....

PARABLE = is a statement or brief story, taken from daily life, that portrays some spiritual truth.

A parable is, literally, something “cast alongside” something else.

- Jesus’ parables were stories that were “cast alongside” a truth in order to illustrate that truth.
- His parables were teaching aids and can be thought of as extended analogies or inspired comparisons

A common description of a parable is that it is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.

For a time in His ministry, Jesus relied heavily on parables.

**Mark 4:34** But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples.

- There are about 35 of Jesus’ parables recorded in the Gospels.

Jesus began telling parables exclusively when He taught publicly

- To the point where His disciples, who asked Him, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?”

**Matthew 13:10** And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? **11** He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. **12** For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall

be taken away even that he hath. 13 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. 14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:

Jesus exposes their spiritual condition...

Matthew 13:15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

- They will grow carnal
- They will drift from God
- They only want to hear what pleases themselves

**Then He speaks to the ones that are wanting to hear....**

Matthew 13:16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

- "You get it"
- "Your hearts are not hardened"

Matthew 13:17 For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

- Jesus came to reveal the truth that man has sought after for years

Matthew 13:18 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.

**Jesus explained that His use of parables had a two-fold purpose:**

1. To reveal the truth to those who wanted to know it
2. To conceal the truth from those who were indifferent

Jesus was teaching and sharing the truth, but He was also trying to keep peace until the time came for Him to be arrested and crucified

John 8:20 These words spake Jesus in the treasury, as he taught in the temple: and no man laid hands on him; **for his hour was not yet come.**

John 16:32 Behold, the hour cometh, **yea, is now come,** that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.

Parables allowed Jesus to teach deep truths without causing issues

- Those that wanted the truth would hear
- Those that rejected the truth would walk away and not fully get it

### **“The Patch and the Wineskins”**

Luke 5:29 And Levi made him a great feast in his own house: and there was a great company **of publicans and of others** that sat down with them. 30 But their scribes and Pharisees murmured against his disciples, saying, Why do ye eat and drink with publicans and sinners?

Who were the Pharisees?

Who were Publicans?

What was the “feel” of this meeting or gathering?

Luke 5:31 And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. 32 I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Their hearts were hard – they wanted to find fault, not learn

Luke 5:33 And they said unto him, Why do the disciples of John fast often, and make prayers, and likewise the disciples of the Pharisees; but thine eat and drink?

Background: Why was this parable so important?

- Why did Jesus choose to teach this in this moment?
- What did this have to do with the Pharisees?

### **The Pharisees**

The Pharisees starting out with good intentions

- They wanted to go the extra mile to make sure things were done right
- They kept adding to the law
- They created a new standard that did not come from God
- They viewed themselves as better and more holy
- They lost sight of the things of God
- They became prideful
- They held others to the standards they created

Jesus was confronting these issues:

Matthew 15:3 But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?

We still struggle with this today!

**Jesus responds with an illustration:**

Luke 5:33 And they said unto him, Why do the disciples of John fast often, and make prayers, and likewise the disciples of the Pharisees; but thine eat and drink? 34 And he said unto them, Can ye make the children of the bridechamber fast, while the bridegroom is with them? 35 But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them, and then shall they fast in those days.

- One of the most joyous occasions they had was a wedding
- They would set aside their religious rituals for celebration
  - No fasting during this time
  - They would celebrate
- Jesus was a reason to celebrate - He was who they had waited for
  - He was the bridegroom

**Jesus begins to teach: Parable of the Garment (first parable in the Bible)**

**“The Patch”**

Luke 5:36 And he spake also a parable unto them; No man putteth a piece of a new garment upon an old; if otherwise, then both the new maketh a rent, and the piece that was taken out of the new agreeth not with the old.

Jesus uses this illustration: If you patch your old clothes with a new piece of cloth, that new piece of cloth will shrink

- It will not “agree” with the old
- A New patch on old clothes would not FIT
  - It would distort the old clothes

### **“The Wineskin”**

Luke 5:37 And no man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish. 38 But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved.

- They would use animal skins to make their bottles or storage containers for their wine/squeezed grapes
- As the grape juice fermented, it would stretch out the skin
  - It would reach a point that it could not be stretch anymore
- If you put the new wine in the old “skins,” it could not stretched, and it would split

### **What is the point? What is the lesson?**

- Jesus came during a time of the law
- He came to introduce a New Testament

### **Do not mix the old covenant with the new covenant**

Matthew 5:17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

### **Jesus was teaching them....**

- You can't take His new teaching and use it as a patch to the Old Covenant
  - It will never fit
  - It will never work
- You can't mix grace and the law
  - Not by works of righteousness

- Not by sacrificing a lamb
- Not by the blood of bulls and goats
- Not by works or circumcision

Isaiah 43:18 Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old.

19 Behold, **I will do a new thing**; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.

Jesus did a “new thing!”

1 Corinthians 11:25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the **new testament** in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

Do this to remember!!!

Example: Where to worship

John 4:19 The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. 20 Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. 21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. 22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. 23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

## **Do not try to live your new life with your old**

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Romans 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Luke 16:13 No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

### **Jesus ends with....**

Luke 5:39 No man also having drunk old wine straightway desireth new: for he saith, The old is better.

- Jesus was teaching them, “you will struggle to change”
- Jesus was teaching them that they must accept the change He was making, because you can't mix them together