

Reading the Bible – Parables

Sunday May 20, 2012

Mat 13:1-23

Parables

- A common feature of Jesus' teaching
- Simple, Memorable
- Not Allegories!
- Makes you Think

On Jesus' Teaching Style

- Often colourful, extreme language
 - Often used questions
 - Often raised questions
 - Rarely neat, straightforward answers
- To make you think!

There is a Catch

Parables often “work” by a surprise

- Good Samaritan; Prodigal Son

Explaining Jokes – If we need to explain it doesn't work!

- We often don't know enough to “catch” it
 - Culture, religious assumptions
- We are sometimes too familiar to “catch” it

Call to Action

Jesus' teaching rarely only “information”

Jesus' teaching calls to ...

- Action
- Change of Perspective

Parable of Sower

- Original Hearers – Kingdom is at hand
- Original Readers – Early Church facing hardships
- What will keep us from growing well?

Reading the Bible

Over the next few weeks we will examine several kinds of literature that are found in the Bible. The hope is that we can learn some practical ways to read the Bible better.

In addition to the teachings on Sunday morning, there are some small groups that will meet during the week. These groups will provide an opportunity to practice what we are learning on Sundays in a supportive low pressure environment.

Here is an outline of the kinds of literature we will examine, and the Scripture passages we will use to “practice” in some of the groups that will be meeting.

Apr 23-27	Letter	1Co 11:17-34
Apr 30 – May 4	OT Narrative	Gen 15
May 7-11	Acts	Act 6:1-7
May 14-18	Gospel	Mar 8:27-9:1
May 21-25	Parable	Mat 13:1-23
May 28 – Jun 1	Law	Lev 19:1-18
Jun 4-8	Psalm	Psa 24
Jun 11-15	Prophet	Amo 5

For Further Reading

Gordon D. Fee, Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* [Third Edition]. Zondervan. 2003.