

PARABLES

2NT708

Fall 2009, Orlando

Tuesdays 6-9 p.m.

Dr. Simon J. Kistemaker

skistemaker@rts.edu

Office Hours: any time

1. Description

The Parables of Jesus are recorded in the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke). Many parables are paralleled in all three gospels, but Matthew provides stories that reveal financial interests, Mark displays an interest in nature, and Luke is a man for the poor and people of average income. Matthew has the so-called kingdom parables, Mark has only one parable that is peculiar to himself, and Luke has placed his parables in the great insertion section (Luke 9:51-19:27) in which most of them are found only in his Gospel.

The course is a survey of all the parables and most of the parabolic sayings of Jesus. We study the difference in wording presented by the individual evangelists, yet we learn that each writer employs his own skills, insights, and characteristics in recording the parables. The parables belong to Jesus who created them and speaks to us through them. In them we hear the voice of Jesus.

2. Objectives

The first objective is to understand the meaning of the individual parables. The meaning is often hidden and comes to light when we clearly see Jesus' intent.

The next one is to apply the meaning of the parable to the present-day world in which we live.

And the third objective is to extend the church and kingdom of the Lord by means of his parables.

3. Requirements

These are the textbooks for the course; assignments are noted in the schedule:

- Kenneth Bailey, *Poet & Peasant; Through Peasant Eyes*. ISBN 97802819475
- Craig L. Blomberg, *Interpreting the Parables*. ISBN 9780830812714
- Arland J. Hultgren, *The Parables of Jesus*. ISBN 9780802860774
- Simon J. Kistemaker, *The Parables*. ISBN 9780801063916
- Robert H. Stein, *An Introduction to the Parables of Jesus*. ISBN 97806643906

Three one-hour tests are scheduled throughout the semester. In addition you are assigned to present a class presentation that you develop into a paper of some 15 pages (plus bibliography and appendices). The paper is due on Tuesday DECEMBER 1, 2009.

You are advised to consult with me about the presentation and the progress of your paper. Make use of the book by Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* to write an acceptable term paper.

You are required to do the assigned reading for the course indicated in the schedule. You are encouraged to use Power Point in your presentation.

4. Evaluation

The grading of your performance in the course is based on these criteria:

Three tests each 25% constitute	75%
Your class presentation and paper	25%
Total	100%

SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 1

Reading: Bailey, *PP* 15-85; Blomberg, 13-69; Hultgren, 1-19; Kistemaker, 9-22; Stein, 15-81.

Forms

True parables
Story parables
Illustrations

Composition

Old Testament
Rabbinic parallels
Cultural background

Purpose

Hide the meaning
Instruction for followers
Teach the meaning of OT
Expand God's revelation

Interpretation

Allegory
One point or more
Modern methods: Redaction, Existential, Postmodern

Principles

History: Geography, Topography, Culture
Grammar: Genre, Word Choice, Diction
Theology: OT—NT, NT—OT

Classification

SEPTEMBER 8

Reading: Blomberg, 208-10, 226-29, 258-60; Kistemaker, 21-40.

Salt (Matt. 5:13)

Two builders (Matt. 7:24-27)

Children in the market place (Matt. 11:16-19)

Application

Parallels

Conclusion

Sower (Matt. 13:1-9)

Setting

Design

Interpretation

Application

SEPTEMBER 15

Reading: Bailey, *TPE* 114-26, 142-56; Blomberg, 197-200, 260-63, and 263-66;
Kistemaker, 41-50, 202-03, 209-13; Stein, 142-46, 168-69.

Seed growing secretly (Mark 4:26-29)

Setting

Interpretation

Wheat and weeds (Matt. 13:24-30)

The Farmer's Field

Interpretation

Application

Farmer and servant (Luke 17:7-10)

Pharisee and tax collector (Luke 18:9-14)

The Pharisee

The Tax Collector

Answers

SEPTEMBER 22

Reading: Blomberg, 201-03, 240-43, 278-81; Kistemaker, 51-70; Hultgren, 392-403;
Stein, 98-106, 140-42.

Unforgiving servant (Matt. 18:21-35)

The Story

The Lesson

Application

Mustard seed (Matt. 13:31-32)
Sowing and Growing

Yeast (Matt. 13:33)

Hidden treasure. Pearl (Matt. 13:44, 45-46)
Setting
Application

Fishnet (Matt. 13:47-50)
Fishing
Explanation

SEPTEMBER 29

Reading: Blomberg, 186-93, 221-25, 294-95; Kistemaker, 71-81, 108-12;
Stein, 124-28. Hultgren, 33-46.

Workers in the vineyard (Matt.20:1-16)
Work and Workers
Hours and Wages
Grace
Application

Two sons (Matt. 21:28-32)
Interpretation

Servant and authority (Matt. 24:45-51)
Servant and Authority

Test

OCTOBER 6

Reading: Bailey, *PP* 86-118; Blomberg, 203-08, 243-51, and 294-95;
Kistemaker, 82-90, 187-201, Hultgren, 110-17; 146-56; 351-82.

Tenants (Matt. 21:33-46).
Story
Meaning
Theology
Application

Shrewd manager (Luke 16:1-9)
Setting
Critique
Application

Rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31)
The Here and Now
The Then and There

Application
Conclusion

OCTOBER 20

Reading: Blomberg, 237-40; Hultgren, 341-50; Kistemaker, 91-107,
Stein, 61-62.

Wedding banquet (Matt. 22:32-37)
The Parable
Explanation

Fig tree (Matt. 24:32-35)

Watchful servant (Matt. 13:32-37)

Burglar (Matt. 24:42-44)
Application

OCTOBER 27

Reading: Blomberg, 193-97, 214-21; Hultgren, 169-79; 271-80; 282-91; Kistemaker, 113-25,
215-20;
Stein, 64-65.

Ten virgins (Matt. 25:1-13)
The Wedding
Meaning
Interpretations

Talents (Matt. 25:14-30)
Entrusted Money
Two Servants
One Servant
The Master
Significance
Conclusion

Pounds (Luke 19:11-27)
History
Parable
Interpretation

NOVEMBER 3

Reading: Bailey, *TPE* 1-21; Blomberg, 184-86; Hultgren, 309-30; Kistemaker, 126-39;
Stein, 130-40.

Judgment (Matt. 25:31-46)
The Right Side
The Left Side
Implications

Two debtors (Luke 7:36-50)

The Setting
The Parable
The Woman
Conclusion

Test

NOVEMBER 10

Reading: Bailey, *TPE* 33-56; 127-41; *PP* 119-33; Blomberg, 229-33; 274-77; Hultgren, 93-103; 252-61; Kistemaker, 140-50, 158-60, 204-08.

Good Samaritan(Luke 10:25-37)

Place and People
Implications
OT Parallels
Application

Friend at midnight (Luke 11:5-8)

Places of honor (Luke 14:7-14)

The Example

Unjust judge (Luke 18:1-8)

Widow and Judge
Application

NOVEMBER 17

Reading: Bailey, *TPE* 57-73, 88-113; Blomberg, 233-37, 266-68, 286-95; Hultgren, Kistemaker, 151-54, 161-70.

Great supper (Luke 14:15-24)

The Story
Interpretation
Setting
Application

Tower builder (Luke 14:28-33)

Parable
Conclusion

Rich fool (Luke 12:13-21)

The Parable
Conclusion

NOVEMBER 24

Reading: Bailey, *PP* 142-206; Blomberg, 172-83; Hultgren, 46-91; 468-72;
Kistemaker, 171-86; Stein, 61-62; 115-24.

Lost sheep (Luke 15:4-7)

Application

Lost coin (Luke 15:8-10)

Lost son (Luke 15:11-32)

Historical Setting

The Younger Son

The Father

The Older Son

Application

Conclusion

General Characteristics

Literary Characteristics

Theological Characteristics

Recipients and Response

Representation

DECEMBER 1

Test

Paper is due.

Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes

Course: 2NT701 Parables

Professor: Simon Kistemaker

Campus: Orlando

<u>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ N/A	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Strong	1. Develop an ability to articulate and apply the Parables to daily life.
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Strong	1. Greek words in the text of the Parables are explained. 2. Stress on knowing the Scriptures is evident in every class period.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	1. At times Reformed principles are stated.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	1. Focus on the Trinity from time to time.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Moderate	1. The application to all of life is foundational.
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Strong	1. The course stresses Reformed principles. 2. The tone and tenor always is wholesome and positive.
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	1. An emphasis on presenting a sermon or a class presentation.
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Minimal	1. How to develop parts of the course in a worship setting.
Shepherd	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-	Moderate	1. An emphasis on leading one to a deeper knowledge of the Bible whether at home or abroad.

	Christians, both in America and worldwide.		
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	1. Students learn to interact with Christians whose views differ from them.