

STORIES JESUS TOLD



COMPASSION ■ WITNESS ■ PRAYER ■ PRIORITIES ■ FORGIVENESS

Eternal R.O.I.

[Matthew 13:44-46]

“When Jesus came preaching the kingdom of God [Heaven], He came preaching God’s right to rule over the minds and hearts of all people.”

— James Montgomery Boice, *The Parables of Jesus*

1. Quest [Seeking]

Jeremiah 29:13 You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.

2. Discovery [Encountering]

Proverbs 2:1-5 My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, ² making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; ³ yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, ⁴ if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, ⁵ then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

3. Surrender [Submitting]

Luke 14:33 “Therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.”

Discovering Jesus is incredible, but submitting to Him will change your life

4. Investment [Committing]

Matthew 10:39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

The absolute value of the Kingdom is worth selling everything to attain [Osborne, ECNT]

The Use of Parables in the Ministry of Jesus

Matthew 13:34-35 All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable. ³⁵ This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet: “I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world.” [Psalm 78:2]

The Why of Parables in the Ministry of Jesus

Matthew 13:10-17 Then the disciples came and said to him, “Why do you speak to them in parables?” ¹¹ And he answered them, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ¹² For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ¹³ This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. ^{14a} Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says:

^{14b} ““You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive.” ¹⁵ For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.” [Quote of Isaiah 6:9-10]

¹⁶ But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. ¹⁷ For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

The Parable of the Hidden Treasure

Matthew 13:44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”

The Parable of the Pearl of Great Value

Matthew 13:45-46 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶ who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. [Isaiah 55:1-2]”

Philippians 3:8-11 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Discussion Questions

1. What’s the main lesson we can learn from these parables? How do we give up everything we have for God’s kingdom? [LCSB]
2. When you look at the message in each parable we see that the stories sum up the gospel in four stages. What stage of your faith journey are you currently in? 1] seeking [the quest], 2] encountering [discovery], 3] submitting [surrendering your life to Christ], or 4] fully committed to your relationship with God [investing].
3. Take some time to pray to focus on thanking Jesus for revealing himself in a miraculous and approachable way. [LCSB]