

# The Parables of Jesus

**Lesson One:** *Why Jesus Taught In Parables*

**Lesson Aim:** Learn why Jesus used parables to seek and save the lost.

**Lesson Text:** Matthew 13:10–17

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 13:16

## Lesson Readings

Matthew 7:7–12; 11:16–20; 13:10–17; John 6:60–69; Mark 4:10–34; Isaiah 6:8–13; Luke 8:9–18

## Thought Questions

1. Using a Bible dictionary define a *parable*.
2. In your own words define a *parable*.
3. What does Jesus state as His purpose for speaking in parables in Luke 8:16–18?
4. What does Jesus state as His purpose for speaking in parables in Matthew 13:10–17?
5. When Jesus spoke in parables was he revealing or concealing truth from His hearers?
6. What did Jesus mean when he said, “*He that hath ears to hear let him hear?*”
7. What characteristic must a man have in order to understand the parables of Jesus?
8. What things hinder understanding the parables of Jesus?
9. How does God give more to him who has and take away from him who has not?
10. State what you believe to be proper guidelines for understanding the parables of Jesus.

## Lesson Summary

Why did Jesus speak in parables?

*“It has been said that all the world loves a story. Certainly all the world remembers Jesus’ parables more than anything else He said.” –Neil Lightfoot*

# The Parables of Jesus

**Lesson Two:** *The Parable of the Sower*

**Lesson Aim:** Learn what kind of men are fit subjects for the Kingdom of God and what means are necessary to bring them into it.

**Lesson Text:** Matthew 13:3–8,18–23

**Memory Verse:** Luke 8:11

## Lesson Readings

Mark 4:4–8,14–21; Luke 8:5–8,11–15; Romans 10:8–17; 1 Peter 1:8–17; 1 Corinthians 4:14–16

## Thought Questions

1. What is the background of this parable?
2. Who is the sower?
3. What is the seed?
4. What do the four different soil types represent?
5. What do the birds represent?
6. What does the sun represent?
7. What do the thorns represent?
8. What are the characteristics of the good ground?
9. With what does the good ground produce?
10. Why do you suppose that all good ground does not yield the same?

## Lesson Summary

What are some lessons learned from this parable?

*“A sower may be faithful and the seed pure, but the soil ultimately determines any and all harvest success.”* –Robert Taylor

# The Parables of Jesus

**Lesson Three:** *The Parable of the seed Growing of Itself*

**Lesson Aim:** Learn that the power for spiritual life is in the Gospel.

**Lesson Text:** Mark 4:26–29

**Memory Verse:** Mark 4:20

## Lesson Readings

Mark 4:3–20; Romans 1:15–17; 10:8–17; Hebrews 11:1–6; 2 Corinthians 7:8–12; Acts 2:36–47

## Thought Questions

1. What is the background of this parable?
2. Who is the sower?
3. What is the seed?
4. What is the relation of the sower to the seed springing and growing up?
5. What does the statement, *“the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself,”* suggest?
6. What is the *“fruit”* that is in view in this parable?
7. What does the progression of *“the blade”* to *“the ear”* to *“the full corn in the ear”* describe?
8. Who is he that puts in the sickle?
9. Unto what *“harvest”* does the parable refer?
10. What is the relation of the seed to the harvest?

## Lesson Summary

What important lessons about conversion are learned from this parable?

*“A farmer can do many things to the soil. He can plow it; he can fertilize it; and often can weed it out after the seed is sown. But he cannot make the seed grow ... there are some things that God alone can do.”* –Neil Lightfoot

# The Parables of Jesus

**Lesson Four:** *The Parable of the Tares*

**Lesson Aim:** Learn something of the great conflict between Christ and Satan for the souls of men and of the ultimate outcome of that conflict.

**Lesson Text:** Matthew 13:14–30, 36–43

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 13:40

## Lesson Readings

2 Corinthians 11:1–4,12–15; 4:1–7; Matthew 18:15–17; 2 Peter 1–3; Galatians 1:6–9

## Thought Questions

1. What is the background of this parable?
2. What two seeds are involved in this parable? What do they represent?
3. Where did the sower sow the good seed? What does this represent?
4. What explanation is given for the presence of tares in the field? Who is this?
5. Who is the Sower?
6. What solution is given for the removal of the tares?
7. When will this be accomplished and by whom?
8. Who are the tares?
9. Explain how Christ's kingdom has those who are wicked in it?
10. What does the rooting up of the tares imply?

## Lesson Summary

What important lessons do we learn from this parable?

*“The field is the world, not the church. The kingdom out of which they are gathered is the same into which they are sown—the world as that which God rules.” – Roger Jackson*

# The Parables of Jesus

**Lesson Five:** *The Parable of the Mustard Seed*

**Lesson Aim:** See the power and the potential of the church of Christ.

**Lesson Text:** Matthew 13:31,32

**Memory Verse:** Mark 4:31

## Lesson Readings

Matthew 17:14–21; Mark 4:30–32; Luke 13:18,19; 17:5–6; Daniel 2:35,44

## Thought Questions

1. What is the background of this parable?
2. Unto what is the kingdom of Heaven compared?
3. What striking characteristic of the mustard seed is emphasized in this comparison?
4. What does the mustard seed become? (Use a Bible dictionary to get a proper view.)
5. Unto what Old Testament prophecy is this parable similar?
6. What characteristic of the kingdom does the mustard seed portray?
7. How is the potential greatness of the kingdom illustrated in this parable?
8. How was the beginning of the kingdom like the mustard seed?
9. What do the birds of the air represent in this parable?
10. From what is the greatness of the church determined?

## Lesson Summary

What important lessons about the kingdom do we learn from the parable of the mustard seed?

*“Those who ignore the spiritual truth that is the Bible will continue to see little value in the church of Christ” – Tim Nichols*

# The Parables of Jesus

**Lesson Six:** *The Parable of the Leaven*

**Lesson Aim:** Learn how the Kingdom of Heaven grows.

**Lesson Text:** Matthew 13:33

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 13:33

## Lesson Readings

Luke 12:1, 13:20,21; Matthew 16:5–12; Mark 8:14–21; 1 Corinthians 5:1–13; Galatians 5:9

## Thought Questions

1. What is the background of this parable?
2. What does Jesus say the kingdom of Heaven is like?
3. Describe the kind of leaven used in Jesus' day?
4. How does this leaven work?
5. What does the leaven represent?
6. What does the woman represent?
7. Where does the woman place the meal? What may this signify?
8. What attribute of leaven does Jesus emphasize?
9. How does leaven work?
10. Why is leaven an appropriate symbol for both bad and good?

## Lesson Summary

What are some lessons learned from the parable of the leaven?

*“When leaven is put into baking meal, it changes the ingredients. When Christ and His kingdom are introduced to mankind, great changes take place ...”* –Neil Lightfoot

# The Parables of Jesus

**Lesson Seven:** *The Parable of the Hidden Treasure*

**Lesson Aim:** Learn the value of the kingdom.

**Lesson Text:** Matthew 13:44

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 13:44

## Lesson Readings

Luke 9:57–62; 14:25–33; Matthew 16:24–28; 19:16–22; John 4:29–40

## Thought Questions

1. What is the background of this parable? To whom is Jesus speaking?
2. Unto what is the kingdom of Heaven compared? (cf. Proverbs 2:4; Job 3:21)
3. Who is the man which finds the treasure?
4. What does the man do when he finds the treasure?
5. What does the man buy?
6. What significance does the field have in this parable?
7. What is the treasure which is in the field? What significance is there in its being hidden?
8. How does the man feel about selling all that he has?
9. Do the actions of the treasure hunter pose a moral problem? (Deuteronomy 22:1–3)
10. What is the one great lesson of this parable?

## Lesson Summary

What several lessons might be learned from the parable of the hidden treasure?

*“The believer who findeth it will make no reckoning of the worth of any earthly thing in comparison of it, but will part with whatever is pleasant or profitable unto him in this life, rather than be deprived of this grace.” –David Dickson*

# The Parables of Jesus

**Lesson Eight:** *The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price*

**Lesson Aim:** Learn something of the character of those that will enter the Kingdom.

**Lesson Text:** Matthew 13:45,46

**Memory Verse:** Proverbs 23:23

## Lesson Readings

Luke 10:38–42; Acts 17:1–15; John 1:43–51; Matthew 6:24–34; Acts 10:1–6

## Thought Questions

1. What is the background of this parable?
2. Unto what does Jesus liken the Kingdom of Heaven?
3. For what was this man seeking?
4. How is the emphasis of this parable different from that of the *Hidden Treasure* ?
5. Who is represented by the merchantman?
6. What does the goodly pearl represent in this parable?
7. What does the merchant man do in order to obtain the one pearl of great price?
8. What character traits are demonstrated in the merchantman which must be present in the one that would enter the Kingdom of Heaven?
9. What is the main lesson of this parable?
10. How does one accomplish what this merchant accomplished relative to the Kingdom?

## Lesson Summary

What are some lessons which are learned from this parable?

*“All which the merchant sought was found in one precious, peerless gem—Jesus “ –T. Guthrie*



# The Parables of Jesus

**Lesson Nine:** *The Parable of the Drag Net*

**Lesson Aim:** Learn that men are either good or bad.

**Lesson Text:** Matthew 13:47–50

**Memory Verse:** 2 Corinthians 5:10

## Lesson Readings

Romans 2:1–11; 2 Corinthians 5:6–11; Romans 14:1–12; Matthew 13:24–30,36–43

## Thought Questions

1. What is the background of this parable?
2. Unto what is the Kingdom of Heaven likened?
3. What kind of net is this? (see a Bible Dictionary)
4. Where is this net cast?
5. Who draws this net to shore?
6. When is this net drawn to shore?
7. What do those that draw the net to shore do?
8. To what does Jesus say this refers? (Matthew 13:49)
9. What do the vessels represent?
10. Who are the bad that are cast away?

## Lesson Summary

What are the lessons to be learned from the parable of the Drag Net?

*“The judgment shall be with care, as when men, in the broad light of day, on the quiet beach sit down to sort the fish.” – J.W. McGarvey*

# The Parable of Jesus

**Lesson Ten:** *The Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard*

**Lesson Aim:** Learn that salvation is by grace and not by our own works or deserving.

**Lesson Text:** Matthew 20:1–16

**Memory Verse:** Ephesians 2:8

## Lesson Readings

Matthew 19:27–30; Ephesians 2:1–10; Titus 3:1–7; Romans 11:1–26

## Thought Questions

1. What is the background of this parable?
2. To what does Jesus compare the Kingdom of Heaven?
3. What does the vineyard owner do early in the morning, at the third hour, sixth hour, ninth hour and eleventh hour?
4. What did the lord agree to pay those hired first? What did he promise the rest?
5. What reason did the eleventh hour laborers give for standing idle all day?
6. What did the lord pay all the servants?
7. What did those who were hired first think they should receive?
8. What did they receive? How did they act concerning it?
9. What justification did one of them offer for his complaint?
10. How did the lord reply?

## Lesson Summary

What great lessons may learned from the parable of the *Laborers in the Vineyard* ?

*“Until we are hired into the service of God we are standing all the day idle.”* –Matthew Henry

# The Parables of Jesus

**Lesson Eleven:** *The Parable of the Two Sons*

**Lesson Aim:** Learn that words and promises do not substitute for deeds and service.

**Lesson Text:** Matthew 21:28–32

**Memory Verse:** 2 Corinthians 7:10

## Lesson Readings

Matthew 21:23–27, 7:13–23; Luke 6:46–49; Hebrews 5:1–11; Matthew 23:1–12; 15:1–11

## Thought Questions

1. What is the background of this parable?
2. Who is this “*certain man*”?
3. What did he own? What does this represent?
4. What did he ask each of his two sons to do?
5. What did the first son say? Who does this represent?
6. What did the second son say? Who does this represent?
7. What did the first son do? The second son?
8. What question does Jesus ask his hearers?
9. What application does Jesus make of their answer?
10. Whom does Jesus say will enter the Kingdom of Heaven?

## Lesson Summary

What lessons can be learned from the *Parable of the Two Sons* ?

*“The second son represents that large host of Christ’s would-be followers who profess much and practice little. Profession without practice, promise without performance—the greatest enemies of the Cause of Christ.”*—Neil Lightfoot

# The Parables of Jesus

**Lesson Twelve:** *The Parable of the Wicked Husbandmen*

**Lesson Aim:** Learn how the Jews lost their privileges to the kingdom through rejecting the Old Testament prophets, John the Baptist and, finally Jesus the Son.

**Lesson Text:** Matthew 21:33–45

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 21:43

## Lesson Readings

Matthew 21:33–45; 23:29–29; Mark 12:1–12; Luke 20:9–19; Ezekiel 34:1–24; Nehemiah 9:4–38

## Thought Questions

1. What is the background of this parable?
2. Who does the householder represent?
3. What is the vineyard?
4. Who are the husbandmen?
5. Who are the servants whom the householder sent to the husbandmen?
6. What did these servants come seeking? What do these represent?
7. Who does the householder send last of all? Who is he?
8. What did the husbandmen want to seize? What is this?
9. What will the householder do to these wicked husbandmen? When will he do this?
10. Who is the nation unto whom the Kingdom will be given?

## Lesson Summary

What is the lesson in *The Parable of the Wicked Husbandmen* for us today?

*“God condemns no one who is not condemned by His own conscience. For God has in every man His judgment seat, and by man He judges concerning man.”* –R.C. Trench

# The Parables of Jesus

**Lesson Thirteen:** *The Parable of the Great Supper*

**Lesson Aim:** Learn that the Kingdom of Heaven must take priority above all other human considerations.

**Lesson Text:** Luke 14:15–24

**Memory Verse:** Luke 14:26

## Lesson Readings

Luke 14:1–35; Matthew 10:5–7; 21:31,32; 1 Corinthians 1:20–29; 7:29–33; John 7:48

## Thought Questions

1. What is the background of this parable?
2. Who is the certain man? What does his supper represent?
3. Who are they that are first bidden and expected at the feast?
4. What three excuses did these guests offer? What do these signify?
5. Who does the man next invite? Who are they?
6. Who does the man next send his servant to invite to the feast? Who are they?
7. What is the significance of there being room at the supper?
8. What judgment does the man pass upon those that were bidden and did not come?
9. What three other brief parables does Jesus give in this connection?
10. What is the main lesson of all three?

## Lesson Summary

What are the two great lessons in this parable for us today?

*“Many today need much persuasion to enter the kingdom. The Christian, as the Lord’s servant, should be busy compelling them to come in.” –Bill Flatt*

# The Parables of Jesus

**Lesson Fourteen:** *The Parable of the Lost Sheep*

**Lesson Aim:** Learn that the mission of Christ was to seek and save the lost.

**Lesson Text:** Luke 15:3–7

**Memory Verse:** Luke 15:7

## Lesson Readings

Matthew 18:1–35; Psalm 23:2,3; 1 Samuel 17:32–37; Ezekiel 34:11–31; Isaiah 40:11

## Thought Questions

1. What is the background of this parable?
2. Who does the shepherd represent?
3. Who does the lost sheep represent?
4. Who are the ninety–nine sheep in the fold?
5. What does the shepherd do? Why?
6. How long does the shepherd search? What does this signify?
7. When the sheep is found what does the shepherd do? What might this represent?
8. After finding the sheep and returning home what does the shepherd do? What is this?
9. In Matthew 18 Jesus tells this parable as an illustration of what truth?
10. What application of the parable is made that applies to the local church now?

## Lesson Summary

What did you learn from *The Parable of the Lost Sheep*?

*“Not that this one is worth, necessarily, even so much as any one that has not strayed; but this one is lost ... Jesus is justifying His association with sinners upon the ground that He was seeking the lost ones, seeking them diligently.” –E.F. Osborn*

# The Parables of Jesus

**Lesson Fifteen:** *The Parable of the Lost Coin*

**Lesson Aim:** Learn the great lesson of the Divine love for lost man.

**Lesson Text:** Luke 15:8–10

**Memory Verse:** Luke 15:10

## Lesson Readings

Luke 15:8–10; 2 Corinthians 7:6–12; John 3:16–21; Romans 5:1–12; 1 Peter 1:12; Matthew 18:10

## Thought Questions

1. What is the background of this parable?
2. Who does the woman represent?
3. Who does the lost coin represent?
4. What was the coin's real value? (see a dictionary)
5. What does the woman do when she realizes the coin is lost?
6. What does this imply about the coin's worth to the woman?
7. What does the woman do when she finds the coin? What does this represent?
8. What significance do the candle and the broom have?
9. Who in the audience is to be compared and contrasted with the woman in the parable?
10. What does the found coin represent?

## Lesson Summary

What are two great lessons learned from this *Parable of the Lost Coin*?

*"God ... seeks sinners and rejoices over even one of them who repents .. so, should not you Pharisees and scribes be concerned about those people you now despise."* –Wm. Hendriksen

# The Parables of Jesus

**Lesson Sixteen:** *The Parable of the Prodigal Son*

**Lesson Aim:** There are three objectives in this parable: (1) display the earnest love of the Father for those that are lost (2) reveal the folly of a life in sin and (3) reprove and condemn the hypocrisy of self-righteousness.

**Lesson Text:** Luke 15:11–32

**Memory Verse:** Luke 15:32

## Lesson Readings

Luke 17:1–4; 18:9–14; 19:1–10; Deuteronomy 21:17; Matthew 3:1–12; James 4:1–10

## Thought Questions

1. What is the background of this parable?
2. Who does the younger son represent?
3. Who does the father represent?
4. Who does the elder brother represent?
5. How came the younger son to be in the foreign land?
6. What thing was necessary for the young man to return home?
7. How does the father receive the younger son?
8. What do the robe, shoes, ring and merrymaking in the parable represent?
9. What is wrong with the attitude of the elder son toward his brother? What does this signify?
10. What did the elder son refuse to accept from the younger brother?

## Lesson Summary

What valuable lesson do you learn in comparing the sins of these two sons?

*“It is not necessary for one to go on a long journey in order to leave home ...”* — Neil Lightfoot



# The Parables of Jesus

**Lesson Seventeen:** *The Unprofitable Servants*

**Lesson Aim:** Learn that with the greatest faith salvation is still the gift of God.

**Lesson Text:** Luke 17:7–11

**Memory Verse:** Luke 17:10

## Lesson Readings

Luke 17:1–10; 12:35–38; John 13:1–17; Ephesians 2:1–10; 1 Corinthians 9:27; Philippians 3:8–14

## Thought Questions

1. What is the background of this parable?
2. Who does the servant represent?
3. Who does the householder represent in this parable?
4. What is the obligation of the servant toward the master?
5. What obligation does the householder have toward the servant?
6. What will a master not say to his servant? Why?
7. To what does Jesus compare this truth about servant/master relations?
8. In what sense is this servant unprofitable? (cf. Matthew 25:23)
9. Is our service to God a matter for which He must be grateful? (Why or why not?)
10. Harmonize Luke 17:7 and Luke 12:37.

## Lesson Summary

What is the one great lesson of this parable?

*“What is our actual relation to God? It is one of servants to a master.”* –R.C. Trench

# The Parables of Jesus

**Lesson Eighteen:** *The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant*

**Lesson Aim:** Behold the goodness, the mercy and the justice of God.

**Lesson Text:** Matthew 18:21-35

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 18:33

## Lesson Readings

Matthew 18:1-35; 2 Kings 4:1-7; Leviticus 25:39-55; Colossians 3:13; Ephesians 4:32; Matthew  
5:7; Luke 6:37; James 5:9; 2 Peter 2:20-22

## Thought Questions

1. What is the background of this parable?
2. Who is represented by the king in this parable?
3. Who is represented by the unmerciful servant in this parable?
4. Who does the other servant represent? How much did he owe?
5. What is the significance of the ten thousand talent debt owed to the king?
6. What does the king do for his servant? What does this represent?
7. What does the servant do to his fellow-servant? What does this symbolize?
8. What does the king do when he learns of the action of his servant?
9. What should the servant have done for his fellow-servant?
10. What punishment did the servant receive?

## Lesson Summary

What lessons do you learn from *The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant*?

*“This frenzy to collect might have been somewhat pardonable if the lord was still demanding his debt, but, that debt being forgiven, such harsh conduct was inexcusable.”* – J.W. McGarvey

# The Parables of Jesus

**Lesson Nineteen:** *The Parable of the Two Debtors*

**Lesson Aim:** Learn the greater one's sense of forgiveness, the greater will be his love and necessarily the greater will be his service to Christ.

**Lesson Text:** Luke 7:41-43

**Memory Verse:** Luke 7:47

## Lesson Readings

Luke 7:36-50; Romans 6:1-4; Mark 14:3-5; Genesis 18:1-4; 29:13; Judges 19:16-21

## Thought Questions

1. What is the background of this parable?
2. Who does the money lender represent?
3. Who does the debtor owing five hundred pence represent?
4. Who does the debtor owing only fifty pence represent?
5. What is the significance of the difference in their indebtedness?
6. What did these two men have in common?
7. Is there any difference in the relative magnitude of their debts?
8. What did the money lender do for both of these men?
9. What was the difference between their indebtedness?
10. What was Simon's problem?

## Lesson Summary

What is the lesson for us today from *The Parable of the Two Debtors*?

*"He who has little forgiven is not necessarily he who has sinned little, but he who is lacking in any conviction of the evil of sin ... little sense of the deliverance wrought for him."* –R.C. Trench

# The Parables of Jesus

**Lesson Twenty:** *The Parable of the Midnight Friend*

**Lesson Aim:** Learn the importance of humble, fervent, believing and patient prayer.

**Lesson Text:** Luke 11:5–8

**Memory Verse:** 1 Thessalonians 5:17

## Lesson Readings

Luke 3:21; 6:12–13; 9:18; 11:1–13; Matthew 6:5–15; Genesis 32:24–32; Matthew 15:21–29; James 4:1–10; 1 John 5:14–17; 2 Samuel 12:15–24; 2 Corinthians 12:7–9

## Thought Questions

1. What is the background of this parable?
2. What does *importunity* mean?
3. Who is represented by the friend at midnight?
4. Who is compared to the man at home in bed?
5. Why does the man in bed get up and give his friend bread?
6. What is the lesson which Jesus is trying to teach?
7. Does God answer prayer because He is bothered by our importunity?
8. What is the law of importunity? (see: Luke 11:9,10)
9. Why does Jesus compare the Heavenly Father to *fathers of our flesh*?
10. Reconcile Matthew 6:7 and the lesson of this parable.

## Lesson Summary

For what purposes does Jesus instruct that men ought to be importunate in prayer?

*“The conclusion is, that if a selfish man can yet be won by importunity to give, how much more certainly shall the bountiful Lord bestow.”*—R.C. Trench

# The Parables of Jesus

**Lesson Twenty-one:** *The Parable of the Unjust Judge*

**Lesson Aim:** In trial we should not fail to pray because God will avenge His children.

**Lesson Text:** Luke 18:1–8

**Memory Verse:** Luke 18:7

## Lesson Readings

Exodus 22:22–24; Deuteronomy 24:17,18; Malachi 3:1–6; 2 Thessalonians 1:4–12;

Revelation 6:9–11; Matthew 6:9–13; 1 Timothy 5:14; 1 Peter 5:8–10

## Thought Questions

1. Who is compared to the judge in this parable?
2. Describe the character of the judge.
3. Who does the widow represent?
4. What did she seek from the judge? In what manner did she seek it?
5. How did the judge react to her request at first?
6. Why did he change his mind regarding the widow's case?
7. Where does Jesus put the emphasis in the parable?
8. What kind of comparison does Jesus make in this parable?
9. What does Jesus mean when He says of the Father, "Though He bear long with them"?
10. What does Jesus mean when He asks, "Shall He find faith on the earth?"

## Lesson Summary

What comfort do Christians derive from *The Parable of the Unjust Judge*?

*"God does not become impatient with the day and night cries of His people."*—Wayne Jackson

# The Parables of Jesus

**Lesson Twenty-two:** *The Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican*

**Lesson Aim:** Learn humility, neither trust in self or despise others.

**Lesson Text:** Luke 18:9-14

**Memory Verse:** Luke 18:13

## Lesson Readings

Luke 3:12; 5:27–30; 7:29,34; 11:37–54; 15:1,2; 19:1–10; Matthew 6:1-17; 15:1–9; 23:1–39;

Deuteronomy 14:22,23; Leviticus 16:29; Isaiah 57:15

## Thought Questions

1. Who went up to the temple to pray?
2. Describe the Pharisee.
3. Describe the Publican.
4. With whom did the Pharisee compare himself in his prayer?
5. To whom did Jesus say the Pharisee prayed?
6. What is the character of his prayer?
7. What did the Publican pray?
8. What is the character of his prayer?
9. Who went home justified?
10. On what basis did Jesus make this determination?

## Lesson Summary

What is the great lesson from *The Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican* for us today?

*“Under pretended thankfulness self-exaltation is thinly veiled.”* – R.C. Trench

# The Parables of Jesus

**Lesson Twenty-three:** *The Parable of The Talents*

**Lesson Aim:** Learn the great lesson of personal responsibility.

**Lesson Text:** Matthew 25:14-30

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 25:21

## Lesson Readings

Luke 19:11-27; Ezekiel 18:1-32; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10; 1 Corinthians 4:1,2; 6:9-20; 1 Peter 4:1-11

## Thought Questions

1. What is the background of this parable?
2. Who is represented by the businessman?
3. Who is represented by the three servants?
4. What is a talent? (use a Bible dictionary)
5. On what basis does the businessman bestow his goods upon each of his servants?
6. What do the businessman's servants do with his talents?
7. How is it that both servants were good and faithful?
8. Why was the one talent man condemned?
9. What is the description of Christ which the one talent man gives? Is it accurate?
9. What is the difference between Matthew's account of the *Parable of the Talents* and Luke's account of the *Parable of the Pounds*?

## Lesson Summary

What great lessons can be learned from *The Parable of the Talents*?

*"All have not the same ability because all have not the same faith."* – James Smith

# The Parables of Jesus

**Lesson Twenty-four:** *The Parable of the Rich Fool*

**Lesson Aim:** Learn that our security must be in God and not the things of this world.

**Lesson Text:** Luke 12:16-21

**Memory Verse:** Luke 12:15

## Lesson Readings

Luke 12:13-36; Matthew 6:19-34; Ecclesiastes 5:9-20; 1 Samuel 25:1-13; Colossians 3:1-10;  
Corinthians 15:32; James 4:13-17; Proverbs 27:1; 1 Peter 1:10,24

1

## Thought Questions

1. What is the background of this parable?
2. What problem did this rich man have?
3. What was his solution to the problem?
4. What did this rich man forget regarding his life?
5. What did the rich man say to his soul?
6. Who spoke to the rich man? What did He tell him? What did He ask him?
7. What happened to the rich man?
8. Unto whom does Jesus compare this rich man?
9. What does Jesus teach men to do after giving this parable?
10. What sin was Jesus addressing in this parable?

## Lesson Summary

What is the one great lesson you learned from *The Parable of the Rich Fool* ?

*This man's folly was shown in several ways ... In commanding his soul in such a way he forgot that God could command it also." – J.W. McGarvey*



# The Parables of Jesus

**Lesson Twenty-five:** *The Parable of the Good Samaritan*

**Lesson Aim:** Learn the answer to the question: “Who is my neighbor?”

**Lesson Text:** Luke 10:30–37

**Memory Verse:** Luke 10:27

## Lesson Readings

Luke 10:25–37; John 7:45–53; 8:46–51; Matthew 5:43–48; Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18, Leviticus 19:33–37; Luke 9:51–56; Micah 6:6-9; Exodus 24:4–9; 2 Kings 17:24–41; John 4:9

## Thought Questions

1. What is the background of this parable?
2. “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?”
3. “Who is my neighbor?”
4. What happened to the man of whom Jesus spoke?
5. Who happened to come by? What did he do?
6. Who next happened by? What did he do?
7. Who finally came by and helped the man? What did he do?
8. What word does Jesus use to describe this man’s action? What does it mean?
9. What lesson was Jesus trying to teach the lawyer?
10. Who is a neighbor?

## Lesson Summary

Who is your neighbor?

*“The question is not, Who is my neighbor? Rather, the question is, Am I being a neighbor to those needy ones whom the Lord places in my path?” – Wm. Hendriksen*

# The Parables of Jesus

**Lesson Twenty-six:** *The Parable of the Disloyal Steward*

**Lesson Aim:** Learn how to use this world without abusing it.

**Lesson Text:** Luke 16:1–9

**Memory Verse:** 1 Corinthians 7:31

## Lesson Readings

Luke 16:1–18; 1 Corinthians 4:2; 7:1–40; 1 Timothy 6:6–19; Matthew 6:19-24; 25:34-40; Genesis 24:1–12; 39:1–20; Luke 6:27-38; 20:34–38; Ephesians 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

## Thought Questions

1. What is the background of this parable?
2. Who is Jesus comparing to the steward and his cronies in this parable?
3. What has this steward done?
4. What does the master require of him? Why?
5. Knowing this what does the steward do?
6. What does the master commend in the steward?
7. What does Jesus mean by the phrase “in their generation”?
8. Why does Jesus command “make friends of unrighteous mammon”?
9. Of what do we have the stewardship which belongs to another man?
10. What are the “true riches” which Jesus mentions in this context?

## Lesson Summary

What is the principal lesson which Jesus is teaching in this parable?

*“For what opportunities are missed by Christians to whom a share of the earthly mammon is entrusted, of laying up treasure in Heaven ... of making friends for the time to come by showing love to the poor saints ...” — R.C. Trench*