

Suggestions for Study

The parables are God's point of view concerning the creation and the purpose of life. If you can understand the parables, you will understand these mysteries.

Please consider using the following recipe to learn the parables:

- a. Realize that human intellect and reason alone cannot reveal the depths of the parables.
- b. Reflect on each of the parables. Discuss them with friends; meditate on them when you get up each morning; meditate on them when you go to bed.
- c. Pray that the Spirit of Truth will teach you the mysteries of the creation and life.
- c. Dwell in the scriptures and let the scriptures dwell in you.

Lesson 3-1 Introduction to The Parables

1. The Parables are simple stories that anyone can relate to. However they have profound spiritual meanings; they reveal the secrets of creation and life on earth.

Matthew 13:35 ..that it might be fulfilled which was spoken through the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things hidden from the foundation of the world.

The purpose of these lessons is not only to teach you the Parables, but also use the parables to teach you how to learn directly from Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God, The Spirit of Truth, the One who has been sent to teach you all things.

John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things...

2. Everything Jesus did had a purpose and fulfilled scripture. Please read the following:

Matthew 13:10 And the disciples came, and said unto him, why speakest thou unto them in parables?

Matthew 13:11 And he answered and said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

Matthew 13:12 For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that which he hath.

Matthew 13:13 Therefore speak I to them in parables; because seeing they see not, and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.

Matthew 13:14 And unto them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall in no wise understand; And seeing ye shall see, and shall in no wise perceive:

3. in your opinion, why are the mysteries of the universe are hidden from some?

4. Do you think God wants you, personally, to understand the parables?

5. why do you think Jesus taught in parables?

6. Let's consider the following parable:

Luke 15:4 What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?

Luke 15:5 And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

Luke 15:6 And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.

7. who do you think the lost sheep is?

8. who is the man who found the lost sheep

9. why did he leave the 99 sheep? were they safe?

10. why did he lay the sheep on his shoulders?

11. who are the friends and neighbors who rejoiced with the man?

12. This parable is one of the few where, at least a portion, of the meaning is given.

Luke 15:7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

13. We can see that the lost sheep that is found is a sinner who repents. When he is found, he is carried on the man's own shoulders to be brought back to the fold. The rejoicing friends and neighbors are those who dwell in heaven.

14. Read the following scriptures very carefully:

Luk 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Matthew 18:11 For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.

John 10:14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

John 10:15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.

John 10:16 And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

John 10:17 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.

John 10:18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

15. who is the man who carries the sinner on his own shoulder?

16. why did the man carry the lost sheep on his own shoulder?

17. why didn't the man let the sheep walk home with his own legs and strength?

18. where is the man's home?

19. who are the sheep that are not lost?

21. Why were the neighbors so happy the man recovered his sheep?

20. If you cannot answer questions 15 through 21, seek God for the answers. It may take many years and many trips through the Bible, but:

Mat 7:7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

21. Conclusion: Jesus is the man, the shepherd, who left His heavenly home to seek those who were lost. The host of heaven rejoices when we repent. When we repent Jesus take us home by his strength, on his shoulders. There are more depths and secrets to this parable for you, with the help of the Holy Spirit, you can unlock them. If you simply listen to our conclusion and thoughts, this parable will soon be forgotten, but if the Holy Spirit teaches you, it will become part of you.