



## The Words of Jesus Series

# Parables of Sower, Debtors & Lamp

Dinner with a Pharisee & Parables

### Course Text:

Luke 7, Luke 8, Matthew 13

### Outline

#### Lesson 1 - Parable of Two Debtors

(Luke 7:36-50)

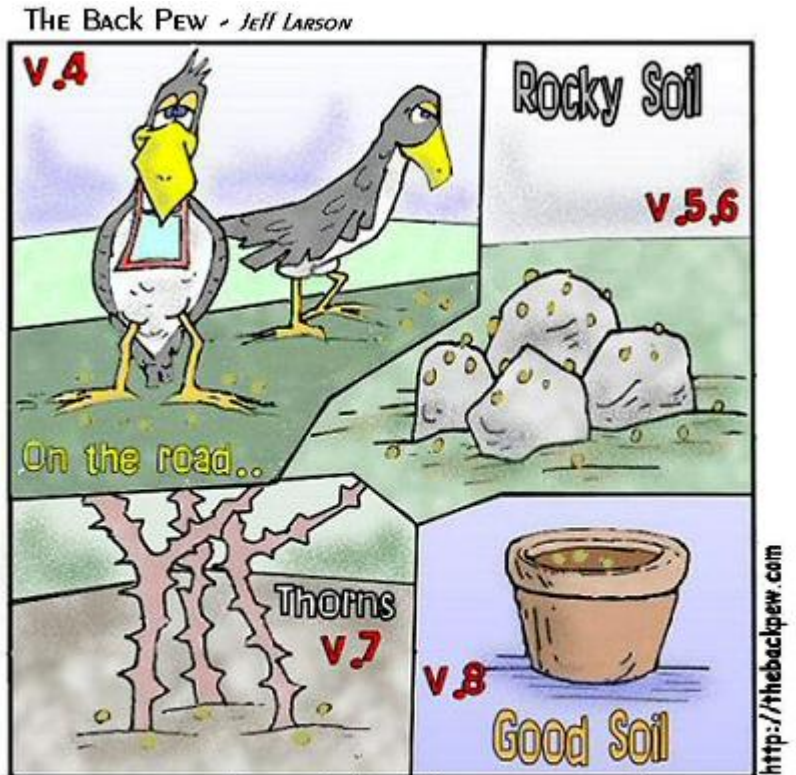
#### Lesson 2 - Parable of the Sower and

Soils (Luke 8:4-15)

#### Lesson 3 - Parable of the Lamp

(Luke 8:10-24)

Jesus has dinner with a Pharisee and teaches about the Kingdom of God using Parables. He gets a visit from His earthly family and responds in a surprising way.



When the 'Seed' (God's message) is planted in the 'Soil' (our hearts).. what kind of soil is your mind.  
**Mt. 13:3-9, Mt. 13:18-23 and Lk. 8:14-15**

### Suggested methodology for each lesson:

1. Fellowship (Save most of this for the end of class.)
2. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst.)
3. Pray (The idea here is to leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
4. Read the lesson's text aloud from the Bible. (... or a few verses at a time as you answer the questions.)
5. Answer and *briefly* discuss the "fill in the blank" questions. (Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers on the next page are just one opinion; you may have a better answer.)
6. On the final "Think & Pray" question everyone should take a few minutes to pray over it and jot down their own thoughts before the discussion. **This will give the Holy Spirit a time to speak.**
7. Discuss your "Think & Pray" answers. (Never force anyone to share theirs. As with the other questions, my answer is just one more opinion; you may have a better answer.)
8. Close in prayer (It is best to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission ahead of time.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, each lesson is expected to take about one hour. Steps 4 thru 7 are about half of that. If you take longer, let each lesson take more than one meeting, or consider breaking into two groups. If you take less time, extra questions are provided for discussion called "For Further Thought."

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## Lesson 1 - Parable of Two Debtors

Please read Luke 7:36-50 and answer these questions:

[1A] What did the Pharisee invite Jesus to do? \_\_\_\_\_

[1B] What did the woman bring to the Pharisee's house? \_\_\_\_\_

[1C] What did the woman do to Jesus' feet? \_\_\_\_\_

[1D] Did the Pharisee object to the woman being there? \_\_\_\_\_

[1E] How much did the two debtors owe the moneylender? \_\_\_\_\_

[1F] What did the moneylender do for the debtors? \_\_\_\_\_

[1G] Which debtor would be more grateful? \_\_\_\_\_

[1H] What did Jesus tell the woman which was offensive to the other guests? \_\_\_\_\_

[1I] Explain how the "Parable of Two Debtors" was really about what was going on with the woman and the Pharisee

Think & Pray \_\_\_\_\_

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THE BACK PEW - JEFF LARSON



*The woman with perfume for Jesus outrages many guests. **Mk. 14:3-5***

### Lesson 1 - Parable of Two Debtors

- [1A] What did the Pharisee invite Jesus to do? Eat a meal with him Lk 7:36 When they ate reclined at the table, their legs would be curled in such a way that their feet would be sticking out behind them.
- [1B] What did the woman bring to the Pharisee's house? A container or perfume. Lk 7:37
- [1C] What did the woman do to Jesus' feet?  
Wept on them, wiped them with her hair, put perfume on them. Lk 7:38
- [1D] Did the Pharisee object to the woman being there? Yes, but only to himself. Lk 7:39
- [1E] How much did the two debtors owe the moneylender? 500 and 50 denarii. Lk 7:41  
A denarius was about a day's wages for a working person.
- [1F] What did the moneylender do for the debtor's? Forgave their debt Lk 7:42
- [1G] Which debtor would be more grateful? The one with the larger debt Lk 7:43
- [1H] What did Jesus tell the woman which was offensive to the other guests?  
"You sins have been forgiven" Lk 7:48

[1I] Jesus knew the Pharisee considered himself to be righteous and the woman sinful. Jesus, of course, knew that they were both sinful, and was trying to awaken the Pharisee's conscience. He did this by making it clear that the woman was really the better of the two, because she was loving more.

#### For further thought:

- (1j) In Luke 7:47 it seems to suggest that the woman's forgiveness was dependent on how much the woman loved. How can that be?
- (1k) Why did they object to Jesus forgiving sins in Luke 7:49? Didn't they know people are supposed to be forgiving?
- (1l) In Luke 7:50 Jesus tells the woman that her faith saved her. Her faith in what?
- (1m) Which character in this passage is more like you? Why?
- (1n) Have you ever knelt and wept at the nail scarred feet of Our Savior? Are your sins forgiven?
- (1o) Have you ever washed anyone's feet or had your feet washed by someone else? Was it a matter of practical need, like a care giver in a hospital, or was it a religious ritual? So what?
- (1p) This woman publically loved Jesus Christ without regard to what anyone else thought. She did it humbly and with great emotion. How public is your love for Jesus Christ?

#### My further thoughts:

- (1j) Doesn't mean that at all. Look at the last two phrases. He is saying that her love is evidence or her forgiveness, not the cause of it.
- (1k) Jesus was forgiving *all* her sins. In their view no one could forgive sins against anyone besides themselves. Unless, of course, He was God.
- (1l) Just as Jesus knew what the Pharisee who was hosting the dinner was thinking in Luke 7:39, Jesus also knew what was on the woman's mind. We have to assume that she trusted in Him. Luke 7:37 tells us that she was a sinner. Surely she knew she was a sinner.

## Lesson 2 - Parable of the Sower and Soils

Please read Luke 8:4-15 and answer these questions:

[2A] What were the different kinds of soil? \_\_\_\_\_

[2B] What happened to the seeds by the roadside? \_\_\_\_\_

[2C] Why did the seed on rocky soil wither? \_\_\_\_\_

[2D] What did the thorns do? \_\_\_\_\_

[2E] How much did the seed in good soil produce? \_\_\_\_\_

[2F] What does the seed represent? \_\_\_\_\_

[2G] What do the birds represent? \_\_\_\_\_

[2H] What do the sprouts on rock soil represent? \_\_\_\_\_

[2I] What do the thorns represent? \_\_\_\_\_

[2J] What do the plants in good soil represent? \_\_\_\_\_

[2K] Who is the sower? \_\_\_\_\_

[2L] Jesus explained the meaning of this parable. What will we, as His disciples, now do or say different having learned this lesson?

Think & Pray \_\_\_\_\_

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### WEEDS

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.

- MARK 4:19 NIV

## Lesson 2 - Parable of the Sower and Soils

[2A] What were the different kinds of soil? Roadside, rocky soil, among thorns, and good soil Lk 8:5-8

[2B] What happened to the seeds by the roadside? Trampled and eaten Lk 8:5

[2C] Why did the seed on rocky soil wither? Lack of moisture Lk 8:6

[2D] What did the thorns do? Choked out the new growth Lk 8:7

[2E] How much did the seed in good soil produce? 100 times as much Lk 8:8

[2F] What does the seed represent? the Word of God Lk 8:11

[2G] What do the birds represent? The devil Lk 8:12

[2H] What do the sprouts on rock soil represent? Those who fall away at temptation Lk 8:13

[2I] What do the thorns represent? Worries, riches and pleasures Lk 8:14

[2J] What do the plants in good soil represent?

Those who persevere in the faith and produce fruit for the Kingdom of God. Lk 8:15

[2K] Who is the sower? The Bible does not say, but I believe it is us

[2L] I think this parable is more about setting expectations than about doing or saying anything differently. When we share the Gospel of Jesus Christ we should realize that we have no control over how it will be received. It depends entirely on the condition of the heart of our listener. Only the Holy Spirit can do anything about that. So regardless of how the Gospel is received we need to continue to testify to it, and not be discouraged.



and some seeds fell on a TV set resulted in a 'thistled theology'.. choked out from any real spiritual growth. **Mt 13:4-23, Lk 8:1-15**

### For further thought:

(2m) This same parable appears in Matthew 13:1-23 and Mark 4:1-20. Compare them. What is the same? What is different?

(2m) Compare Luke 8:4 with Matthew 13:1 and Mark 4:1. Are these all the same event or did Jesus tell the same parable on more than one occasion?

(2n) Luke 8:10 appears to be alluding to an Old Testament passage, but which one? Isaiah 6:9-10, Isaiah 42:18-20, Isaiah 43:8, Ezekiel 12:1-2 and Jeremiah 5:21 all seem to be good possibilities. Which one do you think it was and why? Does Mathew 13:14-15 help with this puzzle?

(2o) In Romans 11:7-10 Paul seems to be talking about the same thing as Luke 8:10 but Paul appears to be talking about different Old Testament passages. Possibly Deuteronomy 29:4 or Isaiah 29:9-10. Paul also refers to Psalms 69:22-23. Are Jesus and Paul saying the same thing or not? Why?

(2p) Which kind of plant in which kind of soil best describes you? How do you know?

(2q) What happened to open your eyes and ears to the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

**Lesson 3 - Parable of the Lamp** (Luke 8:10-24)

Please read the scripture and answer the associated question:

[3A] Luke 8:10 Who has been granted to know the mysteries? \_\_\_\_\_

[3B] Isaiah 6:8-10 What might happen if they understand? \_\_\_\_\_

[3C] Isaiah 43:6-8 Who will God call from the ends of the earth? \_\_\_\_\_

[3D] Luke 8:16 What does not go under the bed? \_\_\_\_\_

[3E] Luke 8:17 What is sure to come to light? \_\_\_\_\_

[3F] Luke 8:18 Who will be given more? \_\_\_\_\_

[3G] Mark 4:21-22 What is sure to be revealed? \_\_\_\_\_

[3H] Matt 25:29 What happens to the one who has little? \_\_\_\_\_

[3I] Luke 10:23 What are blessed? \_\_\_\_\_

[3J] Luke 10:24 Who desired to be witnesses of Jesus' life? \_\_\_\_\_

[3K] In Matthew 13:10-17 Jesus explained why he taught in parables. What did he mean?

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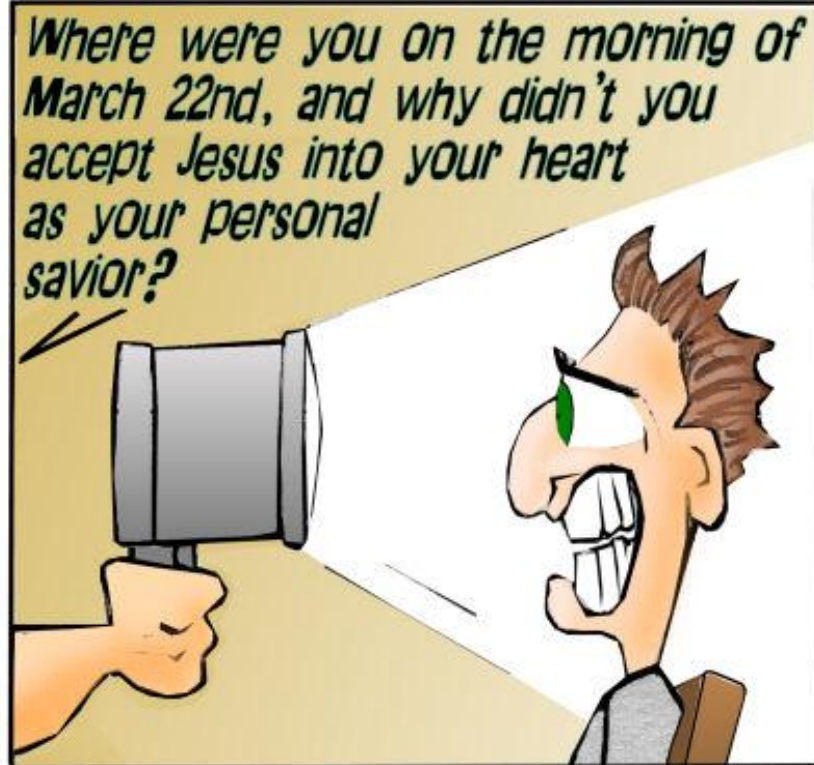
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**The Back Pew - Jeff Larson**



This little light of Ted's was a bit too caffinated and overbearing than intended in **Mt. 5:14-16**

### Lesson 3 - Parable of the Lamp

- [3A] Luke 8:10 Who has been granted to know the mysteries? The disciples Lk 8:9  
 [3B] Isaiah 6:8-10 What might happen if they understand? They might return and be healed Is 6:10  
 [3C] Isaiah 43:6-8 Who will God call from the ends of the earth? His people who are deaf and blind  
 [3D] Luke 8:16 What does not go under the bed? A lit lamp  
 [3E] Luke 8:17 What is sure to come to light? Every secret  
 [3F] Luke 8:18 Who will be given more? Him who has  
 [3G] Mark 4:21-22 What is sure to be revealed? What is hidden  
 [3H] Matt 25:29 What happens to the one who has little? Even that will be taken from him  
 [3I] Luke 10:23 What are blessed? Eyes that see the things His disciples saw  
 [3J] Luke 10:24 Who desired to be witnesses of Jesus' life? Prophets and Kings

[3K] **Teaching in Parables:** Here is how I analyze it:

Verse 10 – The disciples ask Him why.

Verse 11 – Understanding God's word is a gift of God's grace, not an achievement of our own

Verse 12 – Some people understand God a little, like it, and seek more through study, prayer and obedience. Those are given more. Some people understand God a little, do not like it, and rebel. Those never learn more about Him. (See Zechariah 7:11)

Verse 13 – Speaking in parables allowed Him to speak openly about secret things that only those who truly wanted to follow Him would understand.

Verses 14 -15 are a quote from Isaiah 6:9-10 being fulfilled by Christ's decision to teach in parables.

Verse 16 – Let's them know how blessed they are to understand God's word

Verse 17 – The prophets and people of old testament times longed to see the Messiah, and His disciples were getting to fulfill that desire

#### For further thought:

- (3L) Ancient prophets and kings wanted to see Jesus' day but could not. (Luke 10:24 & Matthew 13:17)  
 How did they know there was anything to see?
- (3m) In Judges 7:16-21 at what point did the torches become useful? Is this the same lesson as the Parable of the Lamp?
- (3n) Who is being described in Deuteronomy 29:4? Does this describe you?
- (3o) Isaiah 6:10 sounds like a curse? Looking at the context, what does it mean?
- (3p) In Isaiah 11:1-3 who will delight in the fear of the Lord and judge by the truth rather than appearances?
- (3q) In Isaiah 32:3 who is able to hear and see? Does this describe you?
- (3r) In Jeremiah 5:21 how are foolish and senseless people described? How can we reach people like this with the Gospel of Jesus Christ?
- (3s) Living in our culture today, do you ever feel like Ezekiel 12:2 applies to you? What can we do about this? (Hint: Ezekiel 40:4)
- (3t) What did you learn in this course that you would most like to remember.
- (3u) If someone asked you what this course was about what would you tell them.
- (3v) Is there a verse and passage covered in this course that you would recommend be memorized.