

PARABLES - OF JESUS -

WEEK 1 – THE PHARISEE & TAX COLLECTOR

PARABLE: [παραβάλλω] parabállō
...that which is thrown alongside of
1. “Para” (preposition): “along side of”
2. “Ballo” (verb): “to throw or cast”

A **SIMPLE** story with
a **SPIRITUAL** truth.

Luke 8:9-10 [NLT]

⁹His disciples asked him what this parable meant. ¹⁰He replied, “You are permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of God. But I use parables to teach the others so that the Scriptures might be fulfilled:

“When they look, they won’t really see.
When they hear, they won’t understand.”

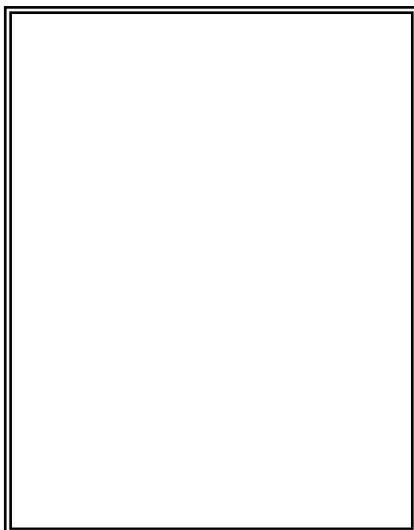
Parables provide a **FRAMEWORK**
for understanding.

OBSERVE
INTERPRET APPLY

Luke 18:9-13 [NLT]

⁹Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else: ¹⁰“Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector.” ¹¹The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: ‘I thank you, God, that I am not like other people—cheaters, sinners, adulterers. I’m certainly not like that tax collector!’ ¹²I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.’

¹³ “But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, ‘O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.’”



Our **POSTURE**
determines our **ACCESS**.

Luke 18:14 [NLT]

I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

God responds to pride and humility
at the same **SPEED**.

James 4:6

*“God opposes the proud
but shows favor to the
humble.”*

Romans 3:22-24 [NLT]

²² We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

²³ For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. ²⁴ Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.

SO WHAT?

What posture defines your
APPROACH?

Psalm 3:3-4 [ESV]

³ But you, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head.

⁴ I cried aloud to the Lord, and he answered me from his holy hill.

NOTES:

"Jesus used the parabolic method, not in order to blind them, but in order to make them look again; not in order to prevent them coming to forgiveness, but in order to lure them toward a new attention."

- G. C. Morgan



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How to start a relationship with God:

- 1) Admitting that you, like everyone else, are in need of rescue.
- 2) Asking God to forgive your sins.
- 3) Saying YES to God by trusting Jesus as Savior & Lord.

You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to look to you and follow you all the days of my life. In Your name, Amen.

For Further Reflection:

:: Discuss the definition and purpose of parables.

:: How do parables help facilitate understanding?

:: What do you find most helpful or challenging with parables?

:: Why did Jesus speak in parables?

:: Since understanding parables requires entering them, what is one way you can more intentionally “enter” & hear the parables of Jesus?

:: Read/Review this week’s parable [The Pharisee & the Tax Collector]

:: Take time to explore this parable using: observe-interpret-apply.

:: Who do you most/least identify with? Why?

:: What does this parable reveal to you about God/yourself?

:: Pastor Shawn said, “Our posture determines our access.”

:: What does that mean in our personal relationship with God?

:: How have you seen this truth play out in your life or someone else’s?

:: What are practical implications for how we live on a daily basis?

:: Identify one thing you can do to be more like the tax collector in how you approach God this week.

:: Ask at least one person to pray for you & encourage you as you do it.

Unless otherwise noted, today’s Scripture is from the New International Version [NIV].

Shawn Cossin (@shawncossin) – July 6 & 7, 2019

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