

Connex Questions and reflections

'Introduction to the Parables'

Section 1:

When studying the parables it is first and foremost important to understand their nature and purpose:

Matthew 13:10-17 and 34-35

Mark 4:34

Q1 In light of our recent presentation on this subject and based on these three Scriptures how would you describe the nature and purpose of Parables?

Q2 What sort of language is generally associated with Parables? Think about some of the reoccurring statements Jesus uses when speaking in parables?

Q3 In your groups nominate a parable and highlight the use of similes and metaphors

Q4 In our recent study on the Parables we mentioned the use of everyday stories which the people at the time would have been familiar with. Trends such as finances, agriculture, stewardship, relationships etc. can you identify parables that highlight these following trends?

Section 2: Pick out a Parable (not the parable of the prodigal son) and use the following tools.

Q1 Important tools to use when studying the Parables:

- Who are the individuals mentioned in the parable your currently reading?
- What characteristics are being demonstrated by these individuals?
- What are some of the themes/points being raised in the narrative?
- Who is representing God in the parable and what might it say about who God is/His attributes?

Side Note: When studying the Bible always be ready to ask these two questions in this exact order.

- What did it mean then? (Important for understanding context)
- What does it mean now? (Important for understanding application which derives from understanding the context)

When reading the parables it is important to approach them not just as a story but consider the dual meanings they contain, understanding the cultural implications of that time, what Jesus was introducing to his listeners and what it means for us today.

Q2 In our creative ministry expressions, how do you think we can keep theology as the foundation upon which we build our ministries on?

Reflection: It's way too easy to become content with just knowing what we believe rather than going a step further to explore 'why' we believe it.

Section 3:

Q1 In groups make up your own modern-day parable to communicate the Gospel:

- Think about what you would want to communicate about the Gospel to an everyday person?

Book Recommendations: Here's some reading for independent studies, all books that have been beneficial along my journey.

- [Exploring the New Testament: Introducing the Gospels and Acts v. 1 by Wenham, David and Walton, Steve: Used; Very Good Paperback \(2001\) | Reuseabook \(abebooks.co.uk\)](#)
- [Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes: Cultural Studies In The Gospels: Amazon.co.uk: Bailey, Kenneth E.: 9780281059751: Books](#)
- [The Gospel According To Matthew \(Pillar New Testament Commentaries\) \(Pillar New Testament Commentaries, 7\): Amazon.co.uk: Morris, Leon: 9780851113388: Books](#)
- [Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels \(Compendium of Contemporary Biblical Scholarship\): Amazon.co.uk: Green, Joel B., etc., Mcknight, S., Green, Joel B., McKnight, Scot: 9780851106465: Books](#)