

Gospels Study and Discussion Questions

Lesson Six: Christ's Teaching Ministry: Parables and Stories – Matthew 13; Luke 10, 15; John 10

Read Matthew 13:1-23 – The Parable of the Sower

- 1) To whom is Jesus speaking...
 - a) when He tells the Parable of the Sower (include verse reference)?
 - b) when He offers an explanation for using parables as a teaching method (include a verse reference)?
 - c) when He gives the interpretation of this parable (include verse reference)?
- 2) What four types of soil exist in the Parable of the Sower and what does each represent?
- 3) Parables became Jesus' primary method of preaching to the crowds. When asked by His disciples why He spoke in parables, Jesus gave an answer that relates to the Parable of the Sower. What was His answer and how does it relate to the parable? See Matthew 13:9, 11-15, 18-19, 34, 43b and Mark 4:10-12, 34.

Read Matthew 13:24-52 – The Parables of the Weeds, Mustard Seed, Yeast, Hidden Treasure, Pearl, and Net

- 4) What do you learn about “the Kingdom of Heaven” (13:11, 19, 24, 31, 33, 38, 43, 44, 45, 47, 50) from Matthew 13?
- 5) What do you learn about God's character, ways, and plans from these parables?
- 6) What do the parables teach about what God expects of His people? *Specifically*, how does this relate to your life today?

Read John 10:1-16, Ezekiel 34 and Psalm 23 – The Parables of the Gate and Good Shepherd

- 7) Identify the following people:
- a) The “one shepherd, my servant David” that Ezekiel refers to prophetically in 34:23 (the prophecy was given long after the time of King David)?
 - b) Ezekiel’s “shepherds of Israel” (34:2) and the implied bad shepherds of John 10?
 - c) The sheep of Ezekiel 34?
 - d) The “other sheep” of John 10:16?
- 8) From the stories in John 10:1-16, list the things that make the relationship of the Good Shepherd and the sheep unique and precious (“the Good Shepherd” is also “the Gate”).
- 9) How did the relationship between the religious leaders and the people of Israel in Jesus’ day *differ* from the relationship between the Good Shepherd and His sheep (use any knowledge you have from the *Gospels* study to answer this)? Relate these differences to what Jesus offers you today versus what any other religion or philosophy offers.

Read Luke 10:25-37 – The Good Samaritan

- 10) Make a list of:
- a) the positions held by the individuals who passed by the injured man.
 - b) insights about the ethnicity of the man who helped, from 2 Kings 17:24-34 and John 4:9.
- 11) How does this story clarify Jesus’ teaching in Luke 10:27-28?

- 12) Name someone to whom you would be unlikely (for whatever reason) to show mercy in the next week. Specifically, how could you act as a “Good Samaritan” in his or her life? If needed, will you ask the Lord to give you His love for this person?

Read Luke 15:1-32 – The Lost Sheep, Lost Coin, Lost Son

- 13) Jesus often told parables in threes. What is the simple, main point of all three of these parables (consider the context from 15:1-2)?
- 14) Keeping the context in mind, who would the older brother represent in the Parable of the Lost (Prodigal) Son?
- 15) Even if it’s only privately, whom have you considered beyond hope of being saved? Write down at least two ways in which these parables should cause you to pray differently and think differently about this person.