

The Parables

There are numerous parables in the Old and New Testaments. Basically a Parable is a comparison of two things, often done through a story that has two meanings. Christ did much of his teaching in parables. Reportedly they were used in the Old Testament because the Rabbi could hold the attention of the people better with a story. I have only done some of them for devotionals but they are all listed for your information. Some are only a couple verses; some are quite lengthy.

Old Testament Parables include:

Jews And Moabites (Analogy) Numbers 23:24

Trees Make A King (Parable) Judges 9:7-15

Strong Brings Forth Sweetness (Riddle) Judges 14:14, 18

Poor Man's Ewe Lamb (Parable) 2 Samuel 12:1-4

Two Sons Fighting (Allegory) 2 Samuel 14:5-20

Escaped Prisoner Son Of A Prophet 1 Kings 20:35-43

Thistle And Cedar (Parable) 2 Kings 14:9, 2 Chronicles 25:18

Vineyard And Wild Grapes (Allegory) Isaiah 5:1-6

Farmer Prepares His Fields Isaiah 28:24-28

Lion's Whelps Ezekiel 14:2-9

Boiling Pot (Analogy-Parable) Ezekiel 24:3-5

Great Eagles And Wine (Parable) Ezekiel 17:3-10

The Parables of the New Testament are found in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Although there is discussion on whether or not some of these fit the definition for a parable, most authorities include:

The Parable Of The Sower - Mark 4:1-20, Matthew 13:3-23, Luke 8:5-15

The Parable Of The Seed Growing Secretly - Mark 4:26-29

The Parable Of The Mustard Seed - Mark 4:30-32, Matthew 13:31-32, Luke 13:18-19

The Parable Of The Tenants - Mark 12:1-11, Matthew 21:33-46, Luke 20:9-18

The Parable Of The Budding Fig Tree - Mark 13:28-32, Matthew 24:32-36, Luke 21:29-33

The Parable Of The Faithful Servant - Mark 13:33-37, Matthew 24:42, Luke 12:35-48

The Parable Of The Wheat And Tares - Matthew 13:24-30

The Parable Of The Leaven - Matthew 13:33, Luke 13:20-21

The Parable Of The Hidden Treasure - Matthew 13:44

The Parable Of The Pearl - Matthew 13:45-46

The Parable Of The Net - Matthew 13:47-50

The Parable Of The Lost Sheep - Matthew 18:12-14, Luke 15:3-7

The Parable Of The Unmerciful Servant - Matthew 18:23-35

The Parable Of The Laborers In The Vineyard- Matthew 20:1-16

The Parable Of The Two Sons - Matthew 21:28-31

The Parable Of The Wedding Feast/Banquet - Matthew 22:1-14, Luke 14:15-24

The Parable Of The Ten Virgins - Matthew 25:1-12

The Parable Of The Talents - Matthew 25:14-25:30

The Parable Of The Two Debtors - Luke 10:30-37

The Parable Of The Good Samaritan - Luke 10:30-37

The Parable Of The Rich Fool - Luke 12:16-21

The Parable Of The Lost Coin - Luke 15:8-10

The Parable Of The Prodigal Son - Luke 15:11-32

The Parable Of The Unjust Steward - Luke 16:1-8

The Parable Of The Rich Man And The Beggar Lazarus - Luke 16:19-31

The Parable Of Specks And Plants In Eyes – Matthew 7:3-4, Luke 6:42-42

The Parable Of Two Houses, Built On Rock Or Earth – Matthew 7:24-27, Luke 6:47-49

The Parable Of The Burglar – Matthew 24:43-44, Luke 12:39-40

The Parable Of A Friend Asking For Help At Midnight – Luke 11:5-8

According to Scripture, Christ chose to use parables or stories to help the people, including the disciples, understand more fully what He was trying to tell them. Many times they seemed to be confused just as we are today. References to why Christ used parables are found in Mark 4:10-12, Matthew 13:10-17, and Luke 8:9-10. Of the four Gospel writers, Luke records the most parables, followed by Matthew, and then Mark. Interestingly, John does not record any of the parables in his Gospel.