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| Psalm 78:1-4 Matt 13:1-3 Matt 13:34-35 | The Stories Jesus Told(introduction) | Pinelands – 9am -10/08/2025 |

There are so many great stories told by Jesus in the Bible…

 We would call them **PARABLES.**

As much as these parables were told and recorded so many years ago…

They are still very relevant to us as modern-day Christians.

The **PARABLES** of Jesus…

Teach us, Encourage us, Motivate us,

Open our eyes and help us to explore a wide variety

of practical applications for our Faith…

Including subjects on…

Humility, Service, Love,

Prayer, Moral Lessons,

Life Application, The list goes on and on.

**Not only that…** But the **Parables** are useful and practical…

 For all ages – Young and old,

Believers and non-believers,

Rich and Poor… **For *EVERYBODY***

Just over **A THIRD** of Jesus’ recorded teaching is found in the **Parables**

So over the next 6 weeks we will be focusing on the Parables of Jesus.

 Join us in our Shared Life Groups

 Join us on Sundays for Worship as we delve deeper

 Into the Stories Jesus Told

**So what is a Parable?**

The word **PARABLE** comes from the Greek word “parabole”

*(para-bow-LAY)*

Meaning the following…

“to place beside, to cast alongside”

 “signifies a placing of one thing beside another

with a view to comparison”

 “a story that places one thing beside another

for the purpose of teaching”

“It puts the known next to the unknown so that we may learn”

Parables are usually stories or narratives drawn from

 Nature or Human circumstances and experiences

 From which Spiritual lessons are taught.

The definition I like most of all is…

 **A Parable is** ***“an earthly story with a heavenly meaning”***

**Dallas Willard** said,

 ***“Parables turn out to be doorways leading into beautiful***

***and loving reality, yet they also disrupt our comfortable***

***notions about God and heaven. Once we hear them and***

***begin to think about them, they revolutionise the inner***

***fabric of our life.”***

 *(The Scandal of the Kingdom – Dallas Willard page 1)*

Jesus was deeply intentional in his teaching and ministry…

 Helping his listeners to truly…

Hear, Remember, Think Deeply and Embrace

 What he said.

There are **5 aspects** related to the Parables of Jesus were…

1. **Culturally Relevant**

Jesus sought to challenge and radically change the

Culture of a fallen world and the presumptions

Of the day… Even today.

1. **Easily Remembered**

Jesus’ stories were unusual and difficult to forget.

Good stories are always remembered

1. **In the Context of Ordinary Life**

Jesus used ordinary objects and activities,

Things with which people were familiar,

 To help them connect with the story

1. **Logical**

Jesus used the power of logic, reason and common sense

 To get to the level of people’s lives and thinking

1. **More Meaningful as time Passed**

Parables are like yeast that keeps expanding over time,

The Parables stay with us and grow in us.

***Dallas Willard***, in his book “Scandal of the Kingdom”

 says there are **2 Parts to Parables.**

**The Vessel** and the **Treasure within** the Vessel.

**The Vessel -** This is the Story, the means of carrying the truth

**The Treasure -** This is the truth contained in the Story

**THE KEY IS…** We must always remember to…

SEEK the TREASURE within the Parable.

**SO…** I invite you to join us over the next 6 weeks,

 As we explore the Treasures within the

 Parables Jesus Told.

That was all information… Helps us – but head knowledge

Today I conclude with a PARABLE – *Not from the Bible*

***SEEK the Treasure Within***

Many years ago an OLD MAN was on a journey,

The sun had just set and…

 - In the distance he saw the **LIGHT** of a cottage.

 - Making his way toward it, He **KNOCKED on** the door.

 A WIDOW answers - The OLD MAN asked…

*"Please would you give me a PLATE of FOOD…*

*and a place to SLEEP for the night. "*

 The widow answered - *"NO! I have no food."…*

 *and chased him away.*

 A SECOND time he knocked -

 *"Could I please have a plate of food to eat"*

 The widow replied,

 *"I have nothing, my cupboards are EMPTY,*

 *I HAVE NO FOOD." (closes the door)*

 AGAIN THE OLD MAN KNOCKS ...

 again the widow answers the door.

 THE MAN.. pulled out a 6 inch nail and said ....

 *"With this nail may I make you SOUP fit for a KING."*

 The widow thought for a while ... then let him in.

 The OLD MAN sat down and asked for a pot of water,

 put the pot on the fire… AND the NAIL in the pot.

After a while he stirred and smelt the soup…

 and SAID*..."This nail has made many soups and OUR*

 *soup is a bit lean and thin, I WONDER…*

*if you have some OATMEAL."*

 The widow said .. *"I might just have some oatmeal"*

 She left and returned with some oatmeal

 and HE PUT IT IN THE POT with the soup + NAIL

After a while he stirred and smelt the soup.

 *"There is something missing.. "* HE SAID,

 *"When I made soup for the MAYOR we put in some…*

*vegatables, THAT'S what's missing"*

 The widow disappeared into the pantry and

 brought out - a POTATO, an ONION, a CARROT

 - THEY added that to the SOUP.

After a while he stirred, smelt and tasted the soup

 The MAN said… *"There is still something missing...*

 *"When I made it for the GOUVENOR, we put in some…*

 *HAM… THAT'S what's missing"*

 The WIDOW said, *"I might just have some HAM in store room."*

 She returned with some HAM and they added it to the soup.

After a while the man said,

 *"When I made this soup for the KING we had a*

 *table with a WHITE LINEN cloth and on it were…*

 *SPOONS, SALT and CANDLES.*

 THE WIDOW set the table in the same way ....

 AND THEY SAT DOWN TO EAT THEIR MEAL.

After dinner the OLD MAN was about to leave…

 when the WIDOW said,

*"You made me soup with a NAIL, and We… shared the meal together. Please stay the night." (she prepared a bed)*

Early the next morning the OLD MAN rose from his sleep,

washed himself, AND TAKING HIS 6 INCH NAIL …

 greeted the widow and continued on his journey.

**WHAT IS THE TREASURE WITHIN?**

**Psalm 78:1-4 God and His People**

Listen, my people, to my teaching,

 and pay attention to what I say.

I am going to use wise sayings

 and explain mysteries from the past,

 things we have heard and known,

 things that our ancestors told us.

We will not keep them from our children;

 we will tell the next generation

 about the Lord's power and his great deeds

 and the wonderful things he has done.

**Matthew 13:1-3**

That same day Jesus left the house and went to the lakeside, where he sat down to teach. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it, while the crowd stood on the shore. He used parables to tell them many things.

**Matthew 13:34-35** **Jesus' Use of Parables**

Jesus used parables to tell all these things to the crowds; he would not say a thing to them without using a parable. He did this to make come true what the prophet had said,

“I will use parables when I speak to them;

 I will tell them things unknown since the creation of the world.”