

The Gospel of Luke

Jesus Teaches in Parables

Luke 6:39-45

Suggested Memory Verse: John 14:2-3

1. Parables.

Parables are extended similes or short fictional stories told by Jesus in order to illustrate or highlight the truth of His preaching. In its pages, the Bible contains several different genres of literary styles including historical narratives, apocalyptic literature, poetry, parables and more. Each portion of Scripture must be interpreted in accordance with its form in order for us to understand what God intended to communicate.

2. Blind Teachers, Blind Students (vs.39-40)

This parable illustrates the dangers both of becoming a teacher before you are fully trained as well as the danger of following an untrained teacher. Both of these lessons were critical for the disciples to understand.

3. The Speck and the Beam (vs.41-42)

This parable illustrates the hypocrisy of a disciple using his or her spiritual knowledge and insight when looking into the lives of others without having first used that insight introspectively. The disciple is first to look for sin in his or her own life, and then, after having dealt with that sin, he or she is able to provide guidance to someone else in dealing with sin.

4. The Trees and Fruit (vs.43-45)

A. Who are the Trees?

The trees are people; they are the disciples themselves. Jesus' sermon both begins and ends with a contrast between true and false disciples (cf. vs.20-26, 46-49).

B. What is the Fruit?

The fruit refers to the actions and words of a disciple. The fruit that one sees does not make one a good disciple or a bad disciple; the fruit reveals what is already true about that disciple.

C. What is the Point of the Parable?

Jesus is calling the disciples to gaze inward at their own hearts to examine the root cause of their actions. Jesus is not interested in merely changing a person's behavior, He offers to change their hearts. A changed heart will, in turn, effect a change to the person's behavior.