

PARABLES

THE TIMELESS
TEACHINGS OF JESUS

Rachel Delaney
and
E. Ruth Lorah

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Ruth retired from the local school system after thirty years of teaching. She continued working with kids at the church's Christ for Youth after-school program and served as a mentor to high school girls emphasizing the benefits of hard work and individual achievement. Always the devoted mother and wife, she eventually had to concentrate her efforts in the care of her ailing husband whom she saw pass into glory after fifty-two years of marriage. Ruth now enjoys keeping up with the activities of her four sons, and especially treasures the time spent with her two daughters-in-law and six grandchildren.

FOREWORD

There are a multitude of New Testament references to Jesus' teachings. Time and time again, the Scriptures underscore the fact that Jesus taught His followers, as well as others, during His earthly ministry.

When we experience Jesus' teachings, we are moved to affirm humbly that He is the greatest Teacher who ever lived. He often used the technique of speaking in parables to explain spiritual truths to people who were seeking to become knowledgeable about Him and the kingdom He represented. These same truths have been applicable to each generation and continue to serve as a source of knowledge about God and His plan and will for His own.

Jesus was not the first to use this teaching method. It was used in Old Testament days, as well as by great teachers of the secular world in the Near East for many centuries. Jesus elevated this teaching method and used it extensively. Any technique used by the Master Teacher must be considered effective and valuable.

Our Lord's parables served as "attention getters" as He used them to explain spiritual truths. They are vivid, moving, concise, beautiful, and appealing. His parables dealt with real objects, places, and situations with which the listeners could relate. They continue to speak to our circumstances today. They are often referred to as "earthly stories with heavenly messages."

His teachings are true, timeless, and transforming. They are still as fresh and as crucial as the day He spoke them; nineteen centuries later, Jesus' words are unchanged and still abundantly rich with lifesaving truth. The Bible seems clear that Jesus' parables were a double-edged sword; they revealed truth to those who would receive it, while hiding truth from those who would reject it.

The purpose of these lessons is to motivate each one "who studies them to search the Scriptures in order that they might become knowledgeable concerning the truths" which Christ taught.

Let us prayerfully consider each of these parables and allow the truths to become more meaningful as we apply them to our daily lives. This will not only bless and enrich our lives, but it will also bring glory and honor to His Name.

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