

PARABLES: WEEK ONE...

Statement...in his opening remarks, Mike told us WHAT THE PARABLES ARE and WHY JESUS TOLD THEM. Reflect on it:

What are parables and why did Jesus use them? Why did Jesus use metaphor as a teaching method?

His parables were unscripted and spontaneous. Some were prompted by questions from a crowd/Disciples, a critical comment by a critic, or Jesus' personal reaction on something that he noticed. In this study, try to imagine the different reactions Jesus got as he told his parables.

TWICE-TOLD STORIES...Mike compared them to "twice-told stories" a story first told orally in one setting, then repeated in another setting. In an oral culture, this was how people communicated and Jesus knew that his audience would pass on his stories.

Think of how different our culture communicates. How might Jesus adapt his style if he were teaching today?

Gospels record post-parable explanations, but they are written in the 3rd person. Most scholars believe that these private tutorials may be the Gospel writers talking to their audiences rather than Jesus making "on-the-spot interpretations".

CATEGORIES OF PARABLES...using a handout, Mike walked through the different types of parables Jesus told. Knowing a parable's type is crucial to interpreting it properly. During this study, try to observe the common themes in each parable category.

KINGDOM PARABLES...Mike examined 3 Kingdom parables, showing how they focus in one way or another on God's Kingdom, a present but not totally fulfilled Kingdom. Write down what you recall about each...

Parable of Sower...

The Narrow Door...

The Buried Treasure...