

The Parables

The challenge of discipleship

The Parables

Class 1: **What is a Parable?**

Class 2: **Why Parables?**

Class 3-4: **Jesus' Parables**

The coming kingdom of God

Class 5-6: **Jesus' Parables**

The grace of God's reign

Class 7-9: **Jesus' Parables**

The challenge of discipleship

Class 9-10: **Jesus' Parables**

The call to repentance

The Parables

Thematic Groupings

The coming reign/kingdom of God (6 parables)

The grace of God's reign/kingdom (9 parables)

The challenge of discipleship (11 parables)

The call to repentance (7 parables)

The Parables

Theme 3: The challenge of discipleship

The treasure; The pearl

The tower builder; The warring king

The dishonest steward; The master and servant

The friend at midnight; The persistent widow

The unforgiving servant; The good samaritan

The two builders

Why Parables?

Jesus' answer

(Mark 4:23–25 ESV)

“If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.” And he said to them, “Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you. For to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.””

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The two builders

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Theme 3: The challenge of discipleship

(Matthew 7:24–27 ESV) The two builders

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

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Theme 3: The challenge of discipleship

The sermon on the mount (Mat 5-7)

1. The distinctiveness of the disciple (Mat 5:3-16)
2. Fulfilling the law (Mat 5:17-48)
3. Piety, true and false (6:1-18)
4. The priority of trust in God over material security (Mat 6:19-34)
5. The disciple and criticism (Mat 7:1-6)
6. What the disciple can expect from God (Mat 7:7-11)
7. **Summary:** Fulfilling the law and the prophets (Mat 7:12)
8. **Conclusion:** Our response to Jesus' words (four scenes/sketches)
(Mat 7:13-27)

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Theme 3: The challenge of discipleship

The beatitudes (blessings): Mat 5:2-12

Obedience to Jesus' words means:



- Humility
 - Being poor in spirit (Mat 5:3)
 - Mourning (Mat 5:4)
 - Being meek (Mat 5:5)
 - Being a peacemaker (leaving judgement to God) (Mat 5:9)
- Zeal
 - Being hungry/thirsty for righteousness (zeal) (Mat 5:6)
 - Being persecuted for righteousness' sake (faithful endurance) (Mat 5:11-12)

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Theme 3: The challenge of discipleship

Salt and Light: Mat 5:13-16

Obedience to Jesus words means:

- Salt 
 - Seasoning the earth with a living example of Jesus (Mat 5:13)
- Light 
 - Illuminating Jesus' saving work for all the lost by living his example (Mat 5:14-16)

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Theme 3: The challenge of discipleship

Fulfillment of the law: Mat 5:17-48

Obedience to Jesus' words means:

- Fulfilling the law - in spirit
 - Anger ≡ Murder 🛑 (Mat 5:21-26)
 - Lust ≡ Adultery 🛑 (Mat 5:27-30)
 - Divorce ≡ Adultery 🛑 (Mat 5:31-32)
 - Oaths 🛑 (Lev 19:12, Mat 5:33-37)
 - Retaliation/vengeance 🛑 (Ex 21:23, Mat 5:38-42)
 - Hatred 🛑 (Lev 19:18, Ps 139:21-22, Mat 5:43-48)

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Theme 3: The challenge of discipleship

Warning against religious ostentation: Mat 6:1-18

Obedience to Jesus' words means:

- Obeying with the correct motivation
 - When giving 📺 (Mat 6:1-4)
 - When praying 🙏 (Mat 6:5-15)
 - When fasting 🚫 (Mat 6:16-18)
 - Etc.

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Theme 3: The challenge of discipleship

Warning against trust in material wealth 💰: Mat 6:19-34

Obedience to Jesus' words means:

- Making God our master, not money (Mat 6:19-24)
 - Laying up treasure in heaven
 - We cannot serve both
- Not being anxious about material needs (Mat 6:25-34)
 - Seeking God's kingdom, not material security

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Theme 3: The challenge of discipleship

The disciple and criticism (Mat 7:1-6)

Obedience to Jesus' words means:

- Judging oneself first 🙋 (Mat 7:3)
- We still have a duty to address sin (Mat 18, 1Cor 5:11 etc.)

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Theme 3: The challenge of discipleship

What the disciple can expect from God (Mat 7:7-11)

Obedience to Jesus' words means:

- We can trust the Father to give good gifts (Mat 7:11)
- We need to understand what a good gift is (Luke 11:13)

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Theme 3: The challenge of discipleship

Summary: Fulfillment of the law and prophets (Mat 7:12)

Obedience to Jesus' words means:

(Matthew 7:12 ESV)

“So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

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Theme 3: The challenge of discipleship

Summary: Fulfillment of the law and prophets (Mat 7:12)

(Matthew 22:36–40 ESV)

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.** This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

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Theme 3: The challenge of discipleship

Summary: Fulfillment of the law and prophets (Mat 7:12)

(Romans 13:8 ESV)

“Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for **the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.**”

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Theme 3: The challenge of discipleship

Summary: Fulfillment of the law and prophets (Mat 7:12)

(Galatians 5:14 ESV)

“For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.””

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Theme 3: The challenge of discipleship

Summary: Fulfillment of the law and prophets (Mat 7:12)

Obedience to Jesus' words means:

(Matthew 7:12 ESV)

“So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

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Theme 3: The challenge of discipleship

Scene 1: The narrow and broad gates

(Matthew 7:13–14 ESV)

“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”

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Theme 3: The challenge of discipleship

Scene 1: The narrow and broad gates

(Jeremiah 21:8 ESV)

“And to this people you shall say: ‘Thus says the LORD: Behold, I set before you **the way of life and the way of death.**”

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Theme 3: The challenge of discipleship

Scene 1: The narrow and broad gates

(Psalm 1:6 ESV)

“...for the LORD knows **the way of the righteous**, but **the way of the wicked** will perish.”

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Theme 3: The challenge of discipleship

Scene 1: The narrow and broad gates

(Deuteronomy 11:26–28 ESV)

““See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: **the blessing, if you obey** the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, and **the curse, if you do not obey** the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside from the way that I am commanding you today, to go after other gods that you have not known.”

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Scene 1: The narrow and broad gates

(Matthew 7:13–14 ESV)

“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”

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Scene 2: A tree and its fruit

(Matthew 7:15–20 ESV)

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.”

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Theme 3: The challenge of discipleship

Scene 3: Things may not be as they seem

(Matthew 7:21–23 ESV)

““Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”

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Theme 3: The challenge of discipleship

Scene 4: The wise and foolish builders

(Matthew 7:24–27 ESV)

“Everyone then **who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.** And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it **did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.** And everyone **who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.** And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, **and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”**

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