

Personal/Home Bible Studies,

A list of the 10 studies on PARABLES in series 2. (3 series in all – 30 studies).

11.	<b>Matt 18:12-14 / Lu 15:3-7.</b>	Lost sheep	Outreach rewarded	Rom 10:14-15.
12.	<b>Lu 13:6-9. / (Mark 11:12-14, 19-22.)</b>	Fig tree	God patiently seeks fruitfulness!	Ep 4:23-24.
13.	<b>Matt 22:2-14</b>	Wedding banquet	Folly of self-righteousness	Titus 3:4-6
14.	<b>Lu 11:5-8. / Lu 18:2-8.</b>	Needy Friend /.. Widow	Persistence in prayer	2 Chron 7:14.
15.	<b>Luke 16:19-31.</b>	Rich man & Lazarus	Tolerance & judgment of God	2 Peter 3:9.
16.	<b>Luke 18:10-14.</b>	Pharisee & Tax man	Saved by grace	Eph. 2:8-10
17.	<b>Luke 16:1-8.</b>	Clever manager	Invest for eternity	Matt 6:19-20.
18.	<b>Matt 5:14-15. / Mk 4:21. / Lu 8:16f</b>	Lamp under bowl.	Let your light shine	Matt 5:16.
19.	<b>Luke 5:27-39.</b>	Cloth & wineskins...	New beginnings	Ez 36:26-27.
20.	<b>Luke 11:14-26.</b>	The strong man	Defeating the Evil One	1 John 4:4.

# Study of PARABLES number 11 Outreach Rewarded!

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Readings: **Matt 18:10-14 / Luke 15:4f.** Parable of the Lost Sheep.

**SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: ROMANS 10 : 14-15.**

1. In Matthew 18 what is Jesus talking about before He tells the parable of the lost sheep?  
  
At the end of the parable in Matthew 18 what link does He make with the lost sheep?
2. Write down as many action words as you can from both of the Bible passages that tell about the things that happened in this parable. Here is a start: One sheep got LOST.
3. What indications do we get in the parable to show that the lost sheep was precious to the shepherd?  
  
What do you think Jesus wanted His hearers to see was important and precious to God?
4. How is GOD the FATHER's concern for the state of the lost expressed?  
  
In what way could we say the Father opened His hand **TO GIVE** in response to the plight of the lost? John 3:16. 1 John 4:14.
5. How does the SON OF GOD respond to the need of the lost as the Good Shepherd?  
  
In what ways could we say the Son used His feet **TO GO** in response to the plight of the lost? Matt 18:11. Phil 2:6-8.
6. GOD THE SPIRIT is not mentioned, but is anything of His concern and His work seen in and through the parable? See 1 Cor 2:11. Rom 8:26. John 16:7-11.
7. In what way were the angels showing their concern for the well-being of the little ones?  
  
In what similar way can we show our concern and be available to help? Heb 4:16. Ep 6:19-20.
8. List some practical ways we can be actively concerned for the lost from what the examples we found in questions 4-7.
9. Can you see how the "shepherd" (the evangelist) can and should encourage his or her friends in the church by his work?
10. How widely is the response felt to the finding of the lost?  
  
In the parable why did Jesus make so much fuss over the finding of one lost sheep?

# Study of PARABLES number 12 God patiently seeks fruitfulness!

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

## Readings: Lu 13:6-9. / (Mark 11:12-14, 19-22.) Parable of the Fig Tree.

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: EPHESIANS 4 : 23-24.

1. What right had the owner of the vineyard to look for and expect figs from his tree?  
  
If he had the right to expect fruit, had he the right to order to have the useless tree destroyed?
2. When God "planted" mankind on this earth He made us in the likeness of God. What do you think God has the right to expect from our lives?  
  
How does your answer compare with 2 Cor 3:18?
3. If we think of God the Father as "the Owner" looking for fruit in our lives, who could the "man who took care of the vineyard" represent as he worked hard in the hope of seeing fruit produced? Give reasons for your answer.
4. It is very important to God that our lives bear the proper fruit. So it needs to be very important to **YOU** to produce that likeness to Christ. How can that be done? (See John 15:1-8. Gal 5:22-26.)
5. What do you think should be God's response to the "fruit" that He finds in sinful mankind today?  
How does your answer compare to what you read in Gen 6:5-8?
6. The man who looked after the worthless fig tree wanted more time to care for it! Sometime people wonder, "Why doesn't God bring immediate judgment on sinners?" See 2 Pet 3:7-10. & Rom 2:4.
7. "I'll dig around it and fertilise it". How does God in His patience today strive to get sinners to see and to respond to His grace and kindness? See Matt 5:44-45. Acts 14:15-17. Rom 1:19-23.
8. Some people hope God's grace will never be exhausted, so they hope God will put off judgment for ever! What answer would you give to such a person? Today's readings should help.
9. The leafy fruitless fig tree had failed to produce acceptable fruit so finally it would no longer enjoy God's favour and nourishment. What is the phrase repeated in Romans 1:24, 26, 28 that sums up this awful curse that God can pronounce upon man?
10. What encouragement do we get from Luke 13:8-9 to know that if we become fruitful (become Christlike) God will not hold against us our past fruitlessness? (See also Micah 7:18-19.)

# Study of PARABLES number 13 Folly of self-righteousness!

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

## Readings: Matt 22:2-14. Parable of the Wedding banquet.

**SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: TITUS 3 : 4-6.**

1. The parable focuses our attention on admission to the Kingdom of Heaven. Why is admission to a wedding banquet a very good illustration for Jesus to have used for Heaven? Rev 19:7-9. 21:1-4.
2. Notice in the king's invitation what the king's part was and what the guests' part was for this banquet to be a success.  
  
Are there any similar conditions for the Heavenly Banquet?
3. What did those invited find more important and worthwhile than responding to the king's invitation?  
  
How did they show their great disrespect and hatred towards their generous king?
4. How did the kind and generous king respond to their attitude?  
  
Does his response cause you to think differently about his kindness and generosity?  
Explain.
5. Who were the "guests" who were given first preference when the great King God invited some to come to His heavenly banquet? Who else got invited in the end? See Acts 13:44-48. Matt 10:5-8.
6. The king's banquet was not to be a lost cause. What action did the king order to make his banquet a success?
7. The king's provision for the banquet obviously included the making available of suitable garments for every guest. How accurate a picture is this of God's provision for every one who will respond to His invitation to attend His wedding banquet for His Son? See Isaiah 61:10.
8. Some may think they can impress the king with their own "garments"! What are some of the self-righteous "rags" that people seem to think will be acceptable to God? See Isaiah 64:6.
9. Can you justify the response of the king to a guest unsuitably clothed?  
  
Why will God the King be so offended by those who have refused the "white robes" He has provided?  
See Rev 7:13-14 for a clue.
10. Not everyone who is invited will be accepted! What assurance can anyone have of being acceptable and accepted before the presence of our great King? See Eph 5:25-27. Heb 9:14. Tit 2:11-15.

# Study of PARABLES number 14 Persistence in Prayer!

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

## Readings: Luke 11:5-8./ Lu 18:1-8. Parable of the Needy friend.

**SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: 2 CHRONICLES 7 : 14.**

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| 1.  | What does it mean when we say a person is PERSISTENT?<br><br>Do any words in Luke 18:1 give a good definition of persistent?<br><br>In what way does Jesus say we need to be persistent?   |
| 2.  | Why did a “friend” in Luke 11 go and deliberately disturb his friend in the middle of the night?   |
| 3.  | What must that needy “friend” have known about his friend that caused him to turn to him even in the middle of the night?<br><br>See what we need to know about God as we come to Him in prayer: Hebrews 11:6.   |
| 4.  | Why was his friend so reluctant to help him when he came to his door?<br><br>What was it about this needy friend that persuaded his friend to help him in the end?   |
| 5.  | Find out from the words of the prayer of King Hezekiah in 2 Kings 19:15-19 why Hezekiah bothered to turn to God with his problem.  |
| 6.  | How is the judge in Luke 18 described?<br><br>Why did the widow continue to come to this judge?  |
| 7.  | What made this judge, who cared nothing about God or man, eventually use his authority and influence to get justice for the widow?   |
| 8.  | What wonderful qualities of God do you find in the following verses: Exodus 34:6. Jeremiah 29:11-13.<br><br>So the lesson from this parable cannot be that <b>God</b> is reluctant to help and be gracious. What is the lesson for us from this parable? |
| 9.  | Unlike the judge, and the reluctant friend, see what God’s attitude and response is to His children in need: Psalm 50:15. Psalm 91:14-16.  |
| 10. | What comment does Jesus make about the attitude of mankind towards God at the time of His return?<br><br>Could this statement be true about the society we live in today?  |

# Study of PARABLES number 15 Tolerance & Judgment of God!

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

## Readings: Luke 16:19-31. Parable of the Rich man & Lazarus.

**SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: 2 PETER 3 : 9.**

1.	List the things you find the two men in the story had in common?
2.	What were the things the first man had that differed from the other man?  How would you describe this man?
3.	What did the other man have that differed from the rich man?  Does the story reveal anything about this man that might explain why Jesus named him "Lazarus", meaning "God is my help"?
4.	What was the first unanswered prayer the rich man prayed after his death?  Why do you think he did he did not make any complaint against God for what was happening to him?
5.	Why was it so unreasonable for him to request mercy and kindness from heaven?
6.	What physical reason was given for why his request could not be answered?  What important fact about the eternal state is revealed by this answer?
7.	What was the second unanswered prayer the rich man prayed from Hell?  Why would in not be necessary for this prayer to be answered?
8.	What proof do we have today that the fact of someone coming back from the dead is not convincing enough proof to make people want to believe God?
9.	What message, in one word, did the rich man want his brothers to hear and to obey before they would depart from life on earth?  Find how important this word is in the message we need to bring to the world: Acts 3:19. 5:31. 20:21. 26:20.
10.	What did Jesus say should be as convincing a messenger for God and truth as someone coming back from the dead would be?

# Study of PARABLES number 16 Saved by Grace!

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

## Readings: Luke 18:9-14. Parable of the Pharisee & Tax Collector.

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: EPHESIANS 2 : 8-10.

1.	Is all praying good and profitable? .....	Compare your answer with what God has said in the Bible: Ps 18:41. / Is 1:15. / Jer 14:12. / Jas 4:3. / Matt 7:22-23. / 2 Chron 7:14.
2.	What were some of the wrong attitudes that Jesus' audience had?	Is the attitude they had one that <b>some</b> or <b>many</b> people still have today?
3.	Did the Pharisee want to ASK God for something or TELL God something?	List the things he said he was not guilty of:  List the things he said he was good at:
4.	What does God have to say about the good and righteous things a sinner <b>can</b> accomplish? (Is 64:6. Rev 3:17.)	
5.	Tax collectors had a very bad name and association, can you explain why? (Luke 7:34. 3:12-13.)	
6.	Had the tax collector come to ASK God for something or to TELL Him something?	How did he describe himself, and what did his body-language say about his attitude?
7.	How would you explain MERCY?	How is MERCY (Deut 7:2.) different from GRACE (Rom 5:15.)?
8.	How did God respond to the honesty and confession of the tax collector?	
9.	What does "JUSTIFIED" mean?	Does your answer agree with what you read in Romans 5:1 and Acts 13:39 and Romans 3:24 and Galatians 2:16?
10.	What lesson did Jesus teach from this parable about pride and humility? (See also James 4:6.)	

# Study of PARABLES number 17.

# Invest for Eternity!

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Readings: **Luke 16:1-14.**

**Parable of the clever manager!**

**SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: MATTHEW 6:19-20**

1.	In what way is every one of us a “manager” of the “Rich Man’s” (God’s) possessions?
2.	What was to happen to the manager because of his mismanagement of what he had been trusted with?
3.	What will it mean for the person who is considered no longer worthy to manage what God entrusted him/her with when the time of undeserved favour with God is terminated?
4.	What did the unworthy “manager” realise would happen to him when he would no longer have the favour of his master?
5.	What scheme did he come up with that he hoped would rescue him from despair?  Was his scheme to make good the past, or to get himself an immediate benefit, or was it for his future?
6.	It would seem to be implied that this manager was willing to use his own “worldly wealth” in order to make friends who might come to his aid in the future. What use of his own wealth might be implied?  What response of his master indicates that the master did not consider himself cheated by the scheme?
7.	What response of the Pharisees showed that they would have thought the manager had wasted his money?
8.	Jesus used this parable to teach about investing for eternity. Which one verse tells us what He had to say about that?  In what ways can we use “worldly wealth” and be laying up treasures in Heaven?
9.	Which verses tell us how important our attitude to present responsibilities is for our eternal future?
10.	You have to choose either <b>to serve God with your money</b> or <b>to serve money as your God!</b> How did Jesus word His teaching about this?



# Study of PARABLES number 18 Let your light shine!

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

**Readings: Matt 5:14-16.** Mk 4:21. / Lu 8:16f **Parable of the lamp under a bowl.**

**SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: MATTHEW 5 : 16.**

1.	Do you find any contradiction between Matt 5:14 and John 8:12? Explain your answer.
2.	Because of its prominent position “a city on a hill cannot be hidden” (verse 14.) – What prominent position does the Believer have that should make him/her very noticeable in this world? (for help see 2 Cor 5:17. Ep 2:10.)
3.	What is the purpose of a light? and how does the parable say you can get the best advantage from a light?
4.	What “light” has the believer got for this dark world? (See 2 Cor 4:6. Acts 13:47. 26:18. )
5.	What must we <b>not</b> do with the light we have? How could we be guilty of doing the wrong thing with the light we have been given?
6.	How are we to rightly use the “light” we have?  Suggest ways to rightly use our light.
7.	What will be the outcome of our correct use of the light?
8.	What awesome fact about Jesus, the Light of the world, is brought to our attention in Lu 8:17? (see also Ps 139:11-12.)
9.	According to Acts 26:18 what are some of the results that the “light” can bring about in a person’s life?
10.	Are there any ways you or/and the Church can improve the quality and effectiveness of the light coming from us into the dark world around?

# Study of PARABLES number 19 New Beginnings!

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Readings: **Matt 9:9-17** . Luke 5:27-39. - Several parables incl. Cloths & Wineskins

**SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: EZEKIEL 36 : 26-27.**

1.	I have given this study the title "New Beginnings" - What "new beginnings" can you identify in the Bible passage?
2.	Try to put yourself in Matthew's position the day Jesus called him to follow Him – what thoughts and conflicts might have influenced his decision?
3.	How did Matthew's zeal after his new beginning influence his friends and associates?  Have you lost any of the enthusiasm you had a new Believer when you first set out to follow Jesus?
4.	What discouragement did Matthew face because of his passion to share Jesus with his friends?
5.	What illustration did Jesus use to indicate why he wanted to be with sinners?
6.	Mercy or sacrifice? (see Matt 9:13.) What attributes of God are seen in Him requiring sacrifices for sin?  What attributes of God are displayed when He says He desires and prefers to show MERCY?
7.	What explanation did Jesus have for why His followers were not living in fear and dread of God?
8.	What did Jesus say a new cloth was unsuitable for? And Why not?  What "old" system were these Pharisees wanting to try to patch up and hold onto instead of wanting the "new"?
9.	What other illustration did Jesus give to show the folly of trying to combine the "old" with the "new"?
10.	Read through Philippians 3 and note Paul's emphasis on some "new beginnings" that we as followers of Christ should focus upon.

# Study of PARABLES number 20 Defeating the evil one!

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

## Readings: Luke 11:14-26 Parable of the strong man.

**SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: 1 JOHN 4 : 4.**

1. Mankind is powerless against the relentless power of nature and against the supernatural power of the spirit world. What did Jesus do that amazed the people?  
  
What did this miracle prove about the power of the Christ of God? (See 1 Jn 3:8. Rev 12:7-8.)
2. How did the unbelieving people dismiss this mighty demonstration of the power of Christ?  
  
What reasoning did Jesus use to overthrow their mistaken beliefs?
3. Today some think that the power to do miracles would give Jesus' followers greater acceptance with the people. What would this incident have to say about that?  
  
Did the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000 convince people to believe? (see John 6:26-36.)
4. What does Jesus say in Matt 7:21-23 that seems to contradict His reasoning here in Lu 11:17-19?  
Can you give any explanation?
5. Why would followers of Satan ever want to preach in Jesus' name and cast out demons? (See 2 Cor 11:13-15. Matt 24:5. Mr 13:22. 2 Thess 2:8-11.)
6. How did Jesus indicate the superiority of the power of God over the power of Satan and his demons?  
  
When Jesus can overcome the power of evil so effortlessly then see where the Believer is safe and secure in His care. (John 10:27-30.)
7. How does a strong man go about making his possessions secure?  
  
Name any of the counterfeits that Satan has armed himself and his followers with – armour that we need to confront and defeat if he is to be overcome.
8. What two words, repeated twice in verse 23, are the requirements of the true follower of Jesus?  
  
How can anyone check up to see if he or she meets that requirement? (See John 12:48. Acts 17:11.)
9. When a deceiving spirit does put out an evil spirit from a person's life why is that person left in even greater danger?
10. How does Jesus ensure that those He delivers are not left in such peril but are really secure? (see 2 Cor 1:21-22. 1 John 4:4.)