

Personal/Home Bible Studies,

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

| Proposed Dates | Study Number | Bible Passage | Title of Parable | Theme | Suggested Memory verses |
|----------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | 21 | Luke 7:36-50. | Two debtors | True demonstration of gratitude | Matt 25:40. |
| | 22 | Matt 18:21-35. | The unmerciful servant. | Forgiven, so forgive! | Col 3:13. |
| | 23 | Matt 19:27- 20:16. | Labourers' wage dispute | The reward of the submissive! | 2 Cor 5:10. |
| | 24 | Matt 13:24-52. | A cluster of parables | Recognising the Kingdom of Heaven | Matt 12:35. |
| | 25 | Matt 25:31-46. | Sheep and goats | The great divide! | Jude 1:21. |
| | 26 | Mark 13:21-37. | The fig tree & home owner. | Look out! Look around! Look up! | Titus 2:13-14. |
| | 27 | Matt 21:33-46 | The rebellious tenants | Where's the fruit? | John 15:8. |
| | 28 | Matt 21:23-32 | The two changeable sons | Love and obey! | Ps 119:57. |
| | 29 | Matt 21:18-22. | The withered fig tree | Fruitful for God's glory! | Ep2:10. |
| | 30 | Matt 15:10-20. (Mk 7:14-23.) | The speaking heart! | Heart & mouth disease! | Ps 15:1b-2. |

If you wish to compare your answers with mine, go to

www.godswordsays.com/ParablesSeries3Answers.pdf

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Study of PARABLES number 21. True demonstration of gratitude!

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 7:36-50

Parable of two cancelled debts.

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: MATTHEW 25 : 40.

1. What can you find out about the Pharisees in these verses: 1. Matt 3:7-10 / 2. Matt 9:11, 14./ 3. Matt 12:11, 14, 24. /4. Matt 16:12. /5. Matt 23. /6. Luke 7:30. /7. Luke 11:42-43. /8. Luke 16:14. /9. Acts 23:8.
2. Can you find in the passage what question the Pharisee was looking for an answer to while he had Jesus to his home for a meal?
3. What convinced the Pharisee that Jesus was NOT what He claimed to be?
4. What could have convinced the woman that Jesus was who He claimed to be?
5. Why did Jesus tell the parable of the two debtors?
6. Jesus commended the actions of the woman but seemed to overlook the fact that the Pharisee had provided the meal for Him! Why do you think He did this?
7. Can you think of any reasons why the woman would have gone through any part of the ritual as she attended to Jesus?
8. What contrasts did Jesus bring out between the Pharisee and the woman?
9. This woman seemed to be emotional from the time she came into Jesus presence – why do you think this was so?
10. When a sinner comes to Jesus what do you think would be the usual order for these to be aroused:
the emotion (love and appreciation) / the intellect (mind) / the will (the decision to do something.)
1st 2nd 3rd

Study of PARABLES number 22 Forgiven, so forgive!

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 18:21-35.** Parable of the unmerciful servant.

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: COLOSSIANS 3 : 13.

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| 1. | What right attitude did Peter express in his question? What wrong attitude did Peter express in his question? and why was it wrong? |
| 2. | What did Jesus say He was going to teach them about by using a parable? Who do you think the king in the parable was to remind them about? |
| 3. | List the various problems that caused the servant to be so distressed. What impossible solution did the servant suggest as an answer to his problems? |
| 4. | What was the judgment that the king passed for the payment of this man's debt? How does this judgment compare with the judgment God must pass on the guilty sinner? |
| 5. | Was the king wrong to demand that the servant be made to suffer loss because of his great debt? What action did the king take to relieve the servant? What phrase in James 2:13 describes this? |
| 6. | What is one way that a person who has received mercy from God is able to show that he is a child of God? (See Lu 6:36.) How important is it for the child of God to show mercy? (See James 2:13.) |
| 7. | How did the servant in the parable show he was not like his master and did not really appreciate what his master had done for him? What did he not get forgiveness for from the king? |
| 8. | What had the servant done when the king decided to have mercy on him? What did the servant do when his fellow-servants responded to him as he had done before the king? |
| 9. | The king had rightly expected his great kindness to be reflected in the behaviour and attitude of the forgiven servant. How did the king respond when he discovered the servant's evil heart unchanged? |
| 10. | What important lesson did Jesus want us to learn here about the standards of the kingdom of Heaven? Our salvation (justification) is by grace through faith, so it is not conditional on us being merciful. Read Eph 2:8-10 and see what it has to say about us showing evidence of our salvation (sanctification). |

Study of PARABLES number 23 The reward of the submissive!

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 19:27- 20:16.** Parable of the labourers' wage dispute.

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:10.

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| 1. | What do you think were some of the things that Peter gave up in order to follow Jesus? What are some of the things <u>you</u> have given up in order to follow Jesus? |
| 2. | How does God see things differently than we would? See 1 Sam 16:7./ Is 55:8-9./ Pr 16:2. / Jer 17:10. What verse in our reading indicated God's conclusions may be different than yours or mine? |
| 3. | What did Jesus say that the parable would illustrate to Peter and the others listening? Can you see any way that this parable about an employer and his labourers could help you to better understand the things Jesus had been saying to Peter? |
| 4. | How do we know from the parable that the early morning workmen must have demanded their own rate of pay with their employer? |
| 5. | Can you notice anything different about the terms of the agreement that those who were employed later settled for? |
| 6. | How many different workers' contracts did the employer commence in that one day? And what were they? |
| 7. | What reason is given for the workers who had only worked a short period at the end of the day getting full pay? |
| 8. | Who was the better off in the end – the ones who had decided themselves what their wages should be or the ones who had been willing to trust the generosity of their employer? |
| 9. | See how confident we should be to fully trust in the goodness and generosity of the One we serve - Dan 3:17-18. / 2 Cor 5:10. / Eph 3:20-21. / Ps 36:7-9. |
| 10. | According to Jesus' teaching how do you qualify to be among the "first" in His Kingdom? Compare your answer with Matt 18:4. / Matt 23:11. / Mat 23:12. / Is 57:15. / Jas 4:6-10. |

Study of PARABLES number 24. Recognising the Kingdom of Heaven!

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 13:24-52.

A cluster of parables!

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: MATTHEW 12 ; 35.

1. In this cluster of parables in our Bible passage how many different illustrations does Jesus use? List what each parable is about, giving the verses where found.
2. Find out from the Bible passage who were the different sowers and how were their seeds different?
What were the different crops that were expected?
3. Why were the two crops not to be separated until the harvest? And how were they separated?
What did this parable teach about the end of the age?
4. What was remarkable about the mustard seed? How did this compare with what it produced?
How was the Kingdom of heaven supposed to be like a mustard seed?
5. What is the purpose of yeast in bread making? How much is needed and how does it work?
Why do you think Jesus said the Kingdom of Heaven is like the yeast?
6. How did the man who discovered treasure in a field react?
How could such a response be compared to a person discovering the Kingdom of Heaven?
7. What did the merchant do when he discovered a very precious pearl?
What can this parable teach us about the Kingdom of Heaven?
8. Today the Kingdom of Heaven seems to attract all kinds of undesirable people, and many different religions and teachings all seem to be directing people to Heaven! How can the parable of the fishing net help us to make sense of the confusion?
9. How does Jesus in the parable of the fishing net describe the judgment that will come upon those who are not true citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven?
Can you think of other such references Jesus made to the coming judgment?
10. Those who have understood these things have a responsibility to teach others. What is the message of the parable of the house owner?

Study of PARABLES number 25

The great divide!

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 25:31-46.**

Parable of the sheep and goats.

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: JUDE 1 : 21.

1. To what particular time does the teaching of this parable apply to?

Into how many divisions does the King divide all the nations of the earth?
2. He will put the "sheep" on his right hand. What other uses of the illustration of "sheep" can you recall in the Bible?
3. What had the King planned and prepared for His "sheep"?

Can you think of any passage(s) in the N.T. that teach the same truths?
4. What had the "sheep" done in their lifetime that the King had taken special notice of?
5. Why were the "sheep" so surprised by the King's praise and appreciation of them?
6. What was the explanation the King gave to show why He had so appreciated their actions?
7. Why were those on the King's left hand side so surprised at the King's accusations against them?
8. While they had been on earth what particular actions of theirs had been against the King?
9. What was to be the outcome of those "goats" on the King's left hand?
10. From this parable how much can you find out about what happen after this life?

Study of PARABLES number 26. Look out! Look around! Look up!

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: **Mark 13:21-37.** The fig tree and the home owner.

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: TITUS 2 :13-14.

1. Look over the Bible passage and the rest of Mark 13 and see if you can find words Jesus used at different times in this chapter to get us to "Look out" for something. What are we to look out for?
2. What kind of things will threaten to deceive the elect and get them to turn aside from hoping and trusting in Jesus?

Can you name any who are deceiving people today?
3. What unmistakable happenings are we to expect that will keep us from being confused about the coming of the true Christ?
4. What lesson did Jesus want to teach us from the fig tree?

What lesson about the end times can the fig tree parable help us to understand? What indications are given of how accurately we can know when end time events are near?
5. How sure does Jesus say we can be about the exact fulfilment of the timing He gave?

So can we give the day and hour of Jesus' coming again and of these end time events?
6. What did Jesus teach about in the parable of the man who went away and returned unexpectedly?
7. Name some of the tasks **Jesus** ordered **His** servants to carry out during **His** absence?
8. According to this parable about the master who went away what should we not want to happen?

This does not mean exactly what it says! What is the lesson we are to take from this?
9. What command does Jesus have for everyone as He finishes teaching from these parables?

If we obey this command what effect would it have on our lives according to our Memory Verse?
10. Why do you think I chose, "Look out! Look around! Look up!" as a title for these parables?

Study of PARABLES number 27, Where's the fruit?

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 21:33-46.**

The rebellious tenants.

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: JOHN 15 : 8.

1. Find out how the Jewish leaders (v. 45.) knew this parable Jesus told was about them? See an OT parable they would have known in Isaiah 5:1-7.
2. In what ways could this well planned vineyard in verse 33 be a picture of God's dealings with Israel?
3. Who do you think the "servants" sent by the landowner were a pictures of?

What "fruit" did God's servants call the people (and us) to produce? [See Ez 33:11. Matt 3:7-8.]
4. Link each of the following Scriptures with a description Jesus gave of how they treated His "servants" in verses 35-39? -
2 Chron 24:20-21
Jer 20:1-2
Jer 26:20-23.....
5. What did the landowner think would surely get his farmers to respond to him in the right way?

Compare the response in the parable with what really happened when God sent **His** Son. [Jn 19:4-7.]
6. What happened to the tenants when the landowner was not willing to put up with their rebellion any longer?

Do you see any comparison with what happened in Gen 6:3, 5-7, 11-13?
7. When God's chosen people, the Jews, failed to produce fruit that glorified God who did God then trust with the duty to bear fruit for Him? [see Acts 13:46-48.]
8. What other Scriptural parable of rejection and punishment did Jesus compare this one to?
9. Verse 43 speaks of producing the fruit of the Kingdom of God. What do you think the fruit of the Kingdom of God could be?

What evidence is there that the fruit God is looking for is being produced in your life?
10. What is the good news and what is the bad news in Hebrews 6:7-8?

Study of PARABLES number 28 Love and obey!

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.

Reading: **Matt 21:23-32.**

The two changeable sons!

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: PSALM 119 : 57.

1. What was the concern that the chief priests and elders wanted Jesus to clarify to them?

What answer could Jesus have given them according to Daniel 7:13-14 and Matthew 28:18?

2. Why do you think Jesus avoided giving them a straight answer to their question?

How did Jesus get out of having to give them a clear answer at that time?

3. Why would the chief priests and elders not give Jesus a straight answer to His question to them?

4. How did each of the two sons in the parable answer the father in respond to his authority?

5. In the parable how did the son who had answered so well show complete disregard for his father?

How can a Christian show the same disregard for God the Father today?

6. How did the other son, who had opposed his father's request, end up showing respect for his father?

What word in the New Testament describes the change in heart shown by this man?

7. Write out what Paul said was the message he preached according to Acts 26:20 .

8. How does the true Christian show His true love and devotion to his Lord and Saviour?

Does your answer agree with what John says in John 14:15 and 1st John 5:3?

9. Write out today's memory verse, then take time to pray to God for the grace and power to keep such a promise.

10. What two requirements does Jesus say are needed of those who hear the "way of righteousness"?

Study of PARABLES number 29

Fruitful for God's glory!

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: Mark 11:12-24. (Matt 21:18-22.) The Withered Fig Tree.

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: EPHESIANS 2 : 10.

1. Why did Jesus go out of His way to go to the fig tree?
2. "Jesus was hungry" – What does this tell us about Jesus, the Son of God?
List any other fact you can remember about Jesus' life on earth that show He was truly human.
3. If Jesus wanted figs why do you think did He not make the tree fruitful instead of destroying it?
Can we learn anything from this about how God is going to judge our lives? See Rom 2:5-6. 14:10-12.
4. What was the temptation the devil used against Jesus when He was hungry in the wilderness? (Lu 4:2-4)
By saying "If You are the Son of God" the devil was implying that a true Son of God should not have to suffer hunger. Why was the devil assuming that a child of God need never be hungry?
5. Why did Jesus, being the Son of God, go to a fruitless tree at the wrong season of the year and look for fruit?
6. My Gardening book says about a fig tree - "if some years you are "figless" you still have an amazing plant".
Why was Jesus not impressed by the "amazing" show of leaves on the fig tree?
Where else do you think Jesus had been looking for "fruit" and finding nothing but a leafy show of religion?
7. In Mark 11 what response was Jesus getting from the Jews as He expected them to be fruitful for God?
8. Jesus had a parable He wanted to share with His disciples at this particular time. What parable did Jesus bring out from the withered fig tree?
Do you think the Believer has the right to literally ask for anything he wants and expect to get it?
9. From this story is there any evidence that suggests that the child of God does not use prayer as a means to get anything he or she wants to have?
10. What "fruit" is Jesus looking for from our lives that will please and satisfy Him? See Isaiah 53:10-11.)

Study of PARABLES number 30 Heart-and-mouth disease!

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 15:8-20.

The speaking heart!

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: PSALM 15 : 1B-2.

1. What complaint did Jesus have about the honour and worship that the people gave Him?

2. If their hearts were not for God, who were they for?

Find out something about the Psalmist's attitude to God's Word in Psalm 119 and note some of the words he used as he referred to the teachings of God?

3. What did Jesus want the people to "listen and understand"?

What shows up the true nature of what is within us?
How is that demonstrated?

4. Why were the Pharisees so offended by this parable?

5. How did the words of Jesus' response to the Pharisees' rejection of Him show His trust and confidence in God?

6. Jesus said, "Leave them". What do you think He meant by that?

7. Why do you think Peter was still confused and still needed the parable to be explained further?

8. How did Jesus sum up Peter's understanding (or misunderstanding) of the teaching?

9. See what Jeremiah 17:9 has to say about the heart.

What did Jesus have to say that proves this to be true?

10. Write out the memory passage; learn it and pray for the grace to put it into practice in your life!
Psalm 15:1-2.

