

PARABLES OF JESUS



1. Parables can be of many different types. Some are single sayings or illustrations Mark 2:21 & 22, Luke 5:34-35, Matt 5:15-16. Others are full stores Mark 4:3-9, Luke 10:30-37, Luke 15:1-32.
2. At the time of Jesus there was no mass communication, radio, TV or newspapers. People learnt about what was happening in other parts of the country from wandering story-tellers. Such people were a colourful and popular part of everyday life in Palestine.
3. The crowds came to see Jesus sometimes to watch his miracles, but at other times they would have come to listen to his stories. Clearly these were well received. Mark 4:1-2.
4. Notice the subjects of the stories Jesus chose. These were all part of the world in which he lived. He used ordinary topics that the people could understand. Stories about farmers, shepherds, fishermen, people with disobedient children.
5. Jesus also made jokes in his parables Mark 10:25. Luke 15:8-10
6. Where to find parables Mark chapter 4. Matthew chapter 13. Luke chapters 14-16. Matthew chapter 25.
7. Parables were often deceptive to the hearers. They sounded at first like a nice jolly story, but often they contained a punch line that could knock you over.



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Remember the parable of the good Samaritan

Luke 10:30-37

The priest and the Levite might have been expected to take care of the beaten up traveller. Samaritans though were sworn enemies of the Jews and his action would have come as a shock to the listeners.

Run a similar tale about a pensioner who collapses on a train. Who would go and attend to him? The guard of the train? A St John's Ambulance volunteer? A football hooligan on his way to an away match? Well work it out for yourself - one of them bought him a double whisky!