

Parables

October 9, 2011

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Parables are harder to understand than you might think.

1. They include _____ that we, as modern readers, don't understand.
 - We have to _____ to see how the original audience would have understood them.
2. Jesus told his parables to _____ His audience and _____ their thinking.
 - But we are so _____ with these stories that _____ what is shocking about them.

Parables demand a response.

- We have to discover what response Jesus _____ to have back then.
- Only then can we see how they _____ today.

Luke 16.1-9

Some background information to help us understand the details of this story:

What to learn from this parable:

- Copy this man's _____ towards his resources but not _____.
- Our highest goal is not securing _____ but _____ the Kingdom of God.
- If building for God's Kingdom is our priority we should _____ to do that.

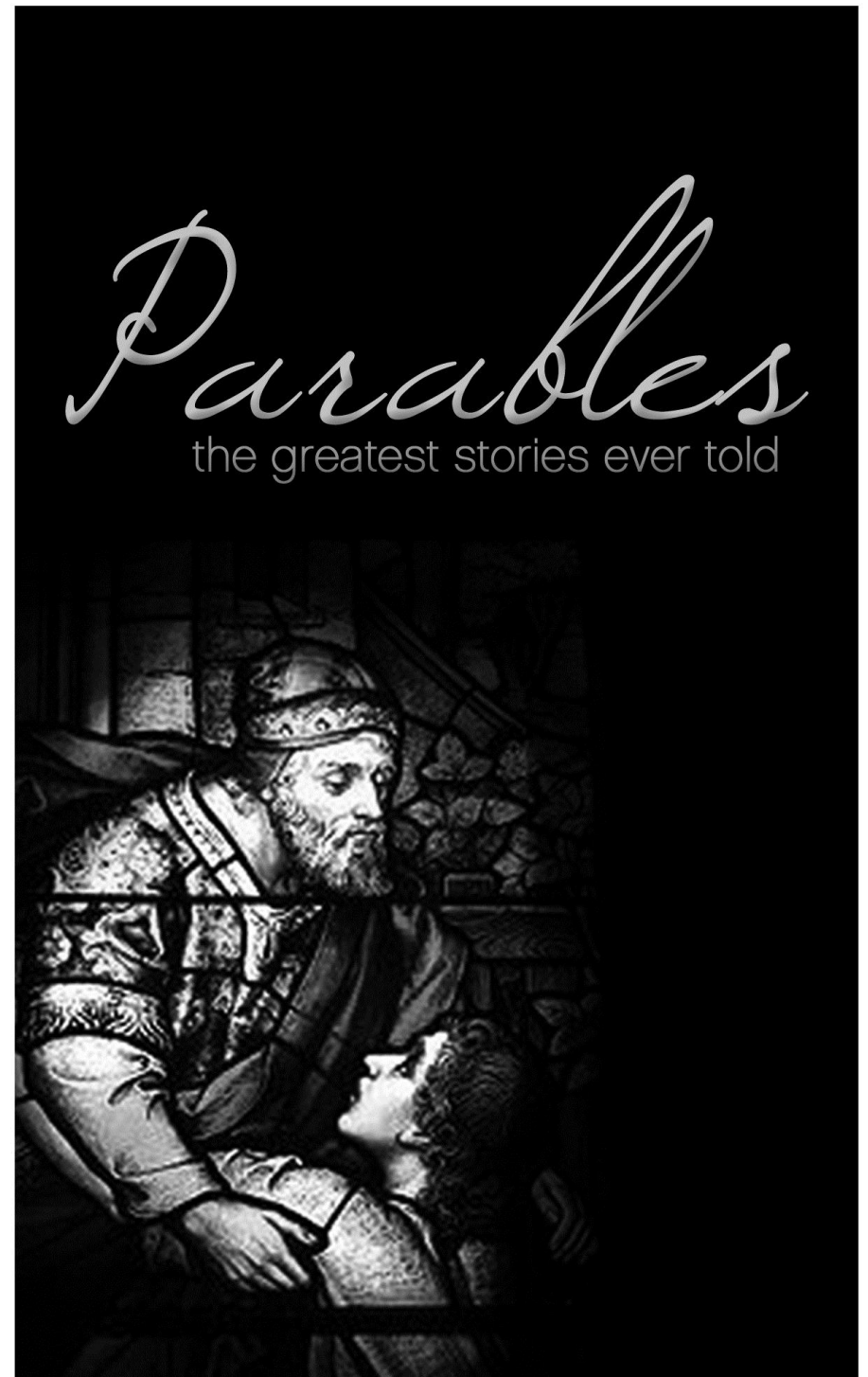
Talk it over . . . with your friends, family, or Growth Group.

Talking through the ideas presented in Sunday's message helps us apply God's word to our individual lives. These questions are designed to help you put His words into action in your life this week.

- Of all of the parables that Jesus told, which one is your favorite? Why is that?
- After reading through the parable of the Unjust Steward in Luke 16 what other questions do you have? Where can you go or what can you do to try and find answers to those questions?
- How do you view Jesus? As a friend? As someone who stretches and challenges you? Both? If you were to describe Him and His role in your life to a co-worker or neighbor, how would you do it? What would you say His priorities for you and your life are?
- Why do you think God had you here this morning? What did you need to hear or experience during this worship service? What do you need to do as a result of that?

Some next steps. . . Here are some things you can do this week to dig deeper:

- Carve out some time this week to sit down and really begin to think of how the ideas in this story connect to the reality of your life. Spend some time prayerfully examining your calendar, your checkbook, and your resume. As you do that ask the question "Am I investing my resources in the things that God says should be my true priorities?"
- Next week Joe will be tackling a parable found in Matthew 20.1-16. Spend some time this week reading through it and trying to figure out what Jesus' intended response to the story was back then. Once you have some thoughts on that, then take the next step and ask how you think it might be calling you to respond, grow, or change today.



Parables
the greatest stories ever told