

# Study of Parables

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## I. Introduction.

A. Parables are comparisons.

B. Jesus spoke in parables to reveal truth to true followers and hide His identity from others since His time had not yet come. (Matthew 13, Isaiah 6:9-10)

II. One can only understand parables through spiritual ears—one must be saved to understand parables. (John 6:63)

III. Obedience is the key to spiritual knowledge. (John 7:17)

IV. A parable is not an allegory.

A. A parable illustrates only one parallel truth.

B. All details in an allegory have a parallel meaning.

C. Every Scripture has one primary interpretation. In addition, some Scriptures have a prophetic revelation. In addition, every Scripture has several practical applications.

V. Tips to studying the parables.

A. Study the context.

B. Interpret Scripture by Scripture.

C. Interpret unclear passages by clear passages.

D. Do not build a doctrine on a parable. Parables illustrate doctrine.

E. Form views slowly.

VI. Insights from Matthew 13.

A. Make a list of major factors.

B. Look to the one interpretation of the passage that is most clear from the passage.

VII. Insights from Luke 13.

A. One will not lose his salvation if he does not bear fruit, as some might understand this passage to say.

B. Those that do not bear fruit are called to repent. (Matthew 3:7-10)

**Application questions:**

1. What is some challenges interpreters face in studying parables?

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2. How would you show someone how to go about studying a parable?

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3. What is the purpose of parables in the Bible?

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