



I. What is a Parable?

Parables are brief stories that are true to life, given for the purpose of teaching some spiritual truth.

The word parable is from 2 Greek words:

"PARA" – along side

"BELLO" – to put, to place, to throw

In the Bible, parables are only **ONE** type of figurative language that is used.

1. **FABLES** - 2 Kings 14:9-10
2. **SIMILES** - Isaiah 55:10-11
3. **METAPHORS** - Luke 13:32
4. **ALEGORIES** - John 15:1-8
5. **PROVERBS**

How to study a **PARABLE** - there are **THREE STEPS** in studying a parable:

1. Study the three parts
 - the **SETTING**
 - the **STORY**
 - the **SPIRITUAL MESSAGE**
2. Find the central message
 - Each parable has **ONE** and **ONE** only central message
 - Each parable has a number of details that have spiritual significance of their own. But all these details relate to the one **CENTRAL MESSAGE**.
 - Each parable has details that have **NO** special spiritual significance.
3. Application to our own **LIVES**

II. The Scripture: Luke 10:30-35

In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'" Luke 10:30-35

III. The **SETTING**

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" He answered: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Luke 10:25-29 (NIV)

Backdrop of this parable is the question, *And who is my neighbor?"*

IV. The **STORY**

Six observations about this story:

1. The story is **REMARKABLY** short.
2. The story is **VIVID** and full of action.
3. The story is full of **HUMAN INTEREST**.
4. The story has **STARTLING** and **UNEXPECTED** features of vital concern to the listeners.
5. The story has one **CENTRAL THEME**.
6. The story calls for **MORAL ASSENT**.

V. The **SPIRITUAL MESSAGE**

"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise." Luke 10:36-37

VI. Personal **APPLICATION**

- Are you being a neighbor?
 - Are you ready to serve one in need?
 - The priest and the Levite show what the human heart is capable of.
 - It also shows that religion will not make you a neighbor.
 - Neighbor here in this story is shown a love from the heart, willingness to get involved and sacrifice hope of personal gain.
 - The coins, the donkey, the oil and wine poured on the wounds need no interpretation – they were practical expressions of compassion and service.
 - Compassion is essential for us to serve as a neighbor.
1. Compassion is based on **NEED** not worth
 2. Compassion **FEELS** something (v. 33)
 3. Compassion **DOES SOMETHING** (v. 34)
 4. Compassion **COSTS SOMETHING** (v. 35)
 5. Compassion demonstrates OUR **RELATIONSHIP TO GOD** (v. 36-37)