



I. Introduction

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.
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. The application to our own lives

II. The **SCRIPTURE** - Matthew 25:14-30

III. The **SETTING** - Matthew 24:1-25:13

IV. The **STORY**

1. The man went on a **JOURNEY**

Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. Matthew 25:14 (NIV)

2. He entrusted **HIS GOODS** to his servants

Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. Matthew 25:14-15 (NIV)

3. The servants treated the **OWNERS PROPERTY** differently

The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. Matthew 25:16-18 (NIV)

4. There was a day of giving **AN ACCOUNT**

After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. Matthew 25:19 (NIV)

5. Reward was given for **FAITHFULNESS**

The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.' His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.' His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' Matthew 25:20-23 (NIV)

6. Punishment for **UNFAITHFULNESS**

Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' Matthew 25:24-30 (NIV)

V. The Spiritual **MESSAGE**

- There was no **EXPLANATION** of this parable added by Jesus
- We are to find the meaning in the story itself
- The man leaving and going to a **FOREIGN LAND** – speaks of Christ leaving this earth and going to the Father
- Upon his return he **SETTLES ACCOUNTS**
- The central truth as it relates to the faithful servants is equal **REWARD** for equal **FAITHFULNESS** in service
- In the case of the unfaithful servant there is a warning against **UNFAITHFULNESS**

VI. Personal Application

1. The return of Christ is **GUARANTEED**
2. Those things that God has entrusted to us are **IMPORTANT**
3. We are proving ourselves faithful – or unfaithful in the **EVERYDAY** of life
4. Our actions should be to please the one who owns what we **MANAGE**