



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

“belo” – to put, to place, to throw

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. Finding 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

Review of Parables Studied:

Week #1 – Good Samaritan – Luke 10:30-35

Central Message – Are you a Neighbor? Do you function in compassion?

Week #2 – Pharisee and the Tax Collector – Luke 18:9-14

Central Message – The Pharisee shows us how not to approach God.
– The tax collector shows us how to approach God

Week #3 – The Unforgiving Servant – Matthew 18:23-34

Central Message – As God has forgiven me a debt of sin against Him that is beyond my ability to pay, I must forgive my brother who has sinned against me.

Week #4 – The Talents – Matthew 25:14-30

Central Message – 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

II. The **SCRIPTURE** – Luke 12:16-20

III. The **SETTING** – Luke 12:13-15

IV. The **STORY** – Luke 12:16-20

1. A rich man increases his **WEALTH** and plans to store it. (v 16)
2. His **BARNs** are already filled. (v 17)
3. He has no place to hold the **EXPECTED ABUNDANCE**. (v 17)
4. He decides to tear down his barns and build **BIGGER** ones. (v 18)
5. He has a **SELF-CENTERED** purpose. (v 19)
6. There is nothing in this story of **ILL GOTTEN** gain.
7. The man appears **HONEST** – wealth from his own efforts.
8. There is no suggestion that he **CHEATED** his laborers.
9. There is no suggestion of waste or **SINFUL LIVING**.
10. Yet God calls him a **FOOL**. (v 20)
11. His death was **UNEXPECTED**. (v 20)
12. The wealth of this life would **NOT ACCOMPANY** him in death. (v 20)

V. The Spiritual **MESSAGE** – Luke 12:21

This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.
Luke 12:21 (NIV)

When God asked, *"Who will get what you have prepared for yourself?"* He was striking at the **ROOT ERROR** of this rich man, who believed that his wealth was his own and that it was his to do with as he pleased.

Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! **Luke 12:24 (NIV)**

Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. **Luke 12:27 (NIV)**

The parable of the rich fool teaches that since man is a steward he should never lay-up **TREASURE** for himself but should be rich toward God. Money is for but one purpose - to give away or invest in **ETERNAL** things.

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. **Matthew 6:19-20 (NIV)**

VI. Personal Application:

1. The term "rich fool" is **UNCOMMON** today.
2. God called him a fool, literally one who was without **MIND** or without **GOOD SENSE**, having no sound principles on which to base his judgment.
3. The reason this man was a fool is because he believed **HIS WEALTH** was his own.
4. No person, Christian or non-Christian, **POSSESSES** a single foot of land, a single dollar, nor a single building.
5. It will all be **LEFT BEHIND**.
6. Men are fools when they think that their **EARTHLY POSSESSIONS** belong to them.