

Summer in the Parables
 Class II: Parables of Grace
 Grace Church Bellingham, July 21, 2024

Parable	Passage
Lost Sheep, Lost Coin	Matthew 18:10-14
Unforgiving Servant	Matthew 18:21-35
The Good Samaritan	Luke 10:25-28
Friend at Midnight	Luke 11:5-13
Rich Fool	Luke 12:16-21
Watchful Servants	Luke 12:35-48
Barren Fig Tree	Luke 13:6-9
Mustard Seed, Yeast, Narrow Door	Luke 13:10-30
The Great Banquet	Luke 14:15-24
The Prodigal Son	Luke 15:11-32
Unjust Steward	Luke 16:1-13
Lazarus & Dives	Luke 16:19-31
Returning Servant	Luke 17:7-10
Unjust Judge	Luke 18:1-8
Pharisee & Publican	Luke 18:9-14

Parables of Grace

**Death & Resurrection
 NOT
 Performance/Life
 As Kingdom program**

THE LOST SHEEP & LOST COIN (MATTHEW 18:10-14/LUKE 15)
Losing as the mechanism of grace.
Lost, last, least, little, and dead

Flow
 Son of Man is going to die & Be Resurrected
 The sons are free
 Who will be the greatest in heaven?
 Don't cause a little one to stumble
 Jesus came to save the lost
 Rejoicing in heaven over the lost, found

Thoughts

- Neither lost sheep or lost coin does anything except hang around
- Lostness and death are the only tickets we have
- Gracious, saving determination to raise the dead
- Confession that we are DEAD... absolution is resurrection

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UNFORGIVING SERVANT (MATT 18:21-35)
Death, Resurrection, and Forgiveness
 Resurrection a gift given to the totally unworthy, not a reward bestowed on the suitably disposed

Flow
 "church discipline" passage (forgiveness?)
 Binding and loosing here and above
 I am with you
 Unlimited forgiveness

Thoughts

- King's release of huge unpayable debt by mercy, for reasons known only to himself
- Ignores nonsense of repayment
- Servant unwilling to give up bookkeeping
- So we refuse death and reliance on forgiveness
- Judgement note too... because in heaven there are only forgiven sinners, no inherently good guys

GOOD SAMARITAN (LUKE 10)
"MAN-WHO-FELL-AMONG-THIEVES"
Losing as Winning
 Lastness, lossiness, leastness, littleness, and death...

Flow
 Heading to Jerusalem (Luke 9:51)
 Rejected in Samaria (Luke 9:52-56)
 James & John salvation by bookkeeping
 Not the "winning team" – foxes & birds better
 None of our usual business is helpful
 Going out with nothing (70)
 Only real rejoicing is in Lamb's book of life

Thoughts

- Jesus maneuvers lawyer to answer himself (law)
- Shipwreck of human effort, not a good example to emulate
- Winners (priest, Levite) don't like losers
- "you go and do the same" – but we don't, and therefore our hope can't be accomplishing
- Mary & Martha follow... let it go, Martha!

FRIEND AT MIDNIGHT... RICH FOOL (LUKE 11:1-12:21)

Grace more than judgment

Our God brings his amazing grace out of death

Flow

Lord's Prayer (shorter)
Friend at Midnight
If I have God's power, then Kingdom here
Bless your mother! (No, hear the word)
Sign of Jonah
Light and dark, not what you think
Warnings... be poor and lost and good as dead
Rich young Ruler

Thoughts

- Only action (Lord's prayer) ... forgiveness... willingness to be dead
- Rousing out of death to answer request; does so because of shamelessness (death) not persistence
- Working on your life (psyche) doesn't end well... our hope is in death and resurrection

WATCHFUL SERVANTS... BARREN TREE (LUKE 12:35-48, 13:6-9)

Fruitfulness out of death

Grace works entirely by raising the dead

Flow

Folly of worry (ineffective to improve life)
Treasure in heaven
Watchful servants
Jesus as cause of division (death as baptism)
Interpreting the times
Settling with one's accuser
All going to die... do you trust me?
Barren Fig Tree

Thoughts

- Wedding; coming home in a good mood; serves them
- No one who waits for Jesus in faith can wait to long for him, or miss him
- Be faithful to the good news of Jesus who raises dead
- World lives, as the fruit tree lives, under the rubric of forgiveness

MUSTARD SEED, YEAST, NARROW DOOR (LUKE 13:10-13:30)

Back to death, lastness, lostness

Trust in his death, he does all the rest

Flow

Healing of crippled woman (Sabbath, Syn)
Mustard Seed
Yeast
Narrow Door

Thoughts

- Tells a second time!
- Jesus bore our sins on a tree
- Yeast gets lost in the mixture
- Skipping to notes of judgment doesn't negate the real message of death and resurrection
- Narrow door of trust in Jesus' death
- Knocking at the door of ordinary good-gets rewarded decency are only workers of iniquity.

GREAT BANQUET (LUKE 14 / MATTHEW 22)

God's Throwing a Party

Grace works on the untouchable, unpardonable, unacceptable
(raising the dead, not in rewarding the living)

Flow

Lament over Jerusalem
Sit-down dinner with Pharisee
Healing on the Sabbath at the party
Humbling self – letting party happen!
Great Banquet

Thoughts

- Starts with a lazy comment – gets a rude shock!
- Pursuit of sensible life is what keeps us out of party!
- "Living" to salvation not an option
- We are dealt with not according to 'rights' – in spite of our 'deservings'

PRODIGAL FATHER (LUKE 15)

God's Throwing a Party

Grace works on the untouchable, unpardonable, unacceptable
(raising the dead, not in rewarding the living)

Flow

Great Banquet
Tower / King going to War (counting cost)
Salt
Rejoicing over lost (sheep, coin) found
Prodigal Father

Thoughts

- Son tells Dad to drop dead, and he does
- Father forgives and restores, confession after
- Restoration full and free and undeserved... and causes anger
- No possibility of salvation through better living (elder brother)

UNJUST STEWARD (LUKE 16:1-13)

Forgiveness-by-resurrection-from-the-dead

Grace doesn't come through respectability

Flow

Prodigal Son/Father
Unjust Steward

Thoughts

- Turn in your books, scoundrel!
- Grace works on the dead
- Unjust steward becomes an agent of grace.... Not respectable but a (seeming) crook
- Lucky we don't deal with the "just" steward!

LAZARUS & DIVES (LUKE 16:19-31)

Rich Man & Poor Man

Living badly turns out to be the true vehicle of saving grace

Flow

Diatribes against Pharisees on divorce/law
Parable of Lazarus & Dives

Thoughts

- Reversal of what is now and what is to come
- Things not as they seem
- Lazarus has a name, the rich man doesn't
- Resurrection not continuation but newness working through death, loss and failure
- Death is all of the resurrection we can now know. The rest is faith.

PHARISEE & PUBLICAN (LUKE 18:9-14)

Death & Resurrection, Once More

Only hope is in the mercy of the one who raises the dead

Flow

Lesson to always pray and not lose heart
Unjust Judge
Pharisee & Publican

Thoughts

- Pharisee all about righteousness and life in himself
- Publican about mercy
- We want to send Publican back up with Pharisaical changes (righteous life)... instead of trusting in mercy which is resurrection from the dead.
- All grace