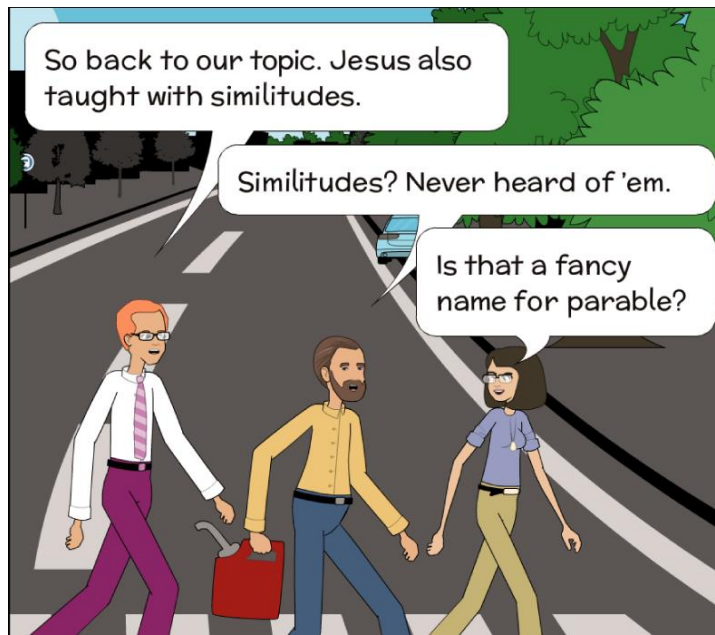


What is a Parable



I have also spoken to the prophets
And I gave numerous visions
And through the prophets I gave parables
(Hosea 12:10. NASB95)

What is a “Parable”? A parable is a:

1. Similitude. To be like or similar to; a comparison between two things; a person or thing resembling someone or something else. For example, as confirmation of HIS WORD in Hosea 12:10 above, our Beloved LORD GOD used the prophet:
 - a. Isaiah, to go barefoot and naked for 3 years as a sign and indication against Egypt and Cush (Isa 20:1-6).
 - b. Ezekiel, who laid down on his left side for 390 days, and then on his right side for 40 days to symbolize sieges brought by foreign nations to Israel and Judah (Eze 4:1-8).
 - c. Hosea, who was commanded to take an unfaithful wife who will bear other men’s children as a sign against Israel and Judah for their unfaithfulness to our GOD (Hos 1:1-2).
2. A word-picture. Which uses an image or true description to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson (Mat 7:24-27).
3. A figure of speech. Which is a comparison such as those made with the pronouncement “the Kingdom of GOD is like “ (Mrk 4:30-32).
4. A narrative that has a hidden meaning. Dark saying (Num 12:8, Psa 78:2).

Why use a parable? For two reasons:

1. For the righteous to consider and adjust their behavior accordingly. We will discuss later how our Beloved LORD GOD sent HIS prophet Nathan to King David (2 Sam 12:1-7).
2. So the wicked or unrighteous who refuse to turn to GOD and be healed, would continue in their willful ignorance until they are destroyed (Isa 6:8-11).

Where are the parables in The BIBLE? There are throughout the BIBLE, in both the Old and New Testaments. However, in this initial study of parables, we will only be examining parables in the Gospels that our Precious LORD JESUS CHRIST taught. We will first go through the parables in bi-weekly BIBLE studies, and then post the discussion from those studies online for others who are interested to read and hear.

Two weeks ago we were going to introduce the first New Testament parable, but we ended up spending the time examining an Old Testament parable. This change in the parable occurred when a young godly man answered the question “Does

anyone here know if there are parables in the Old Testament?" Josh answered "Yes, there is the parable of the two men in the city and the one little lamb." We turned to that parable, which is located in 2 Samuel 12:1-7.

Examination of 2 Samuel 12:1-7

- Our Beloved LORD GOD used three prophets to advise David:
 - Samuel anointed young David King (1 Sam 16:11-13), advising him until his own death (1 Sam 19:18), which occurred before David became King.
 - Gad the prophet was sent to King David from our Beloved LORD GOD (2 Sam 24:10-14).
 - Nathan was also David's prophet during the time he sat on the throne of Israel (2 Sam 7:1-17, 2 Sam 12:24-25, 1 Kin 1:1-48).
- David was first, a shepherd taking care of his father Jesse's sheep (1 Sam 17:12-15, 32-37, Psa 78:70-72).
- Our Beloved ABBA FATHER sent Nathan to David, because of King David's grave sin (2 Sam 11:1-27). King David had lived in this unconfessed sin for many months (2 Sam 12:13, Psa 51:1-19). The child had been born when GOD sent Nathan to David (2 Sam 12:1-23).
- The traveler represented David's lust for Bathsheba (2 Sam 11:1-2), GOD gave him a way of escape (2 Sam 11:3-5, 1 Cor 10:13) but he refused it (2 Sam 11:4). Let's stop and discuss the reasons our Beloved LORD GOD chose this particular parable for King David:
 - As previously mentioned, he was a shepherd for his father Jesse's sheep, but he later became the shepherd of our Beloved LORD GOD's sheep (Psa 100:3, Psa 78:73, 2 Sam 24:15-17).
 - The traveler had opportunity because King David was in a place he should not have been (2 Sam 11:1).
 - Uriah lived near the palace with his wife Bathsheba, because he was one of King David's 30 mighty men (mighty warriors) who were loyal to him, strongly supporting him (1 Chr 11:10-47).
 - Bathsheba was not only Uriah's wife, but she was also the daughter of another one of King David's mighty men (2 Sam 23:34), and the granddaughter of his most trusted counselor (2 Sam 23:34, 2 Sam 15:12).
 - Uriah only had one wife (2 Sam 11:5-27, 1 Kin 15:5), David had many (2 Sam 12:8, 1 Chr 3:1-9).
- Through this parable, David was able to see how grave his sin was (2 Sam 12:5) which totally lacked compassion for a man who had so faithfully served him (2 Sam 12:6).

There are many more lessons to be learned from King David's behavior in 2 Samuel chapters 11 and 12. Including that the sin you think is secret, is carried out before our Beloved LORD GOD (Psa 90:8, Ecc 12:14, Jer 16:17, Jer 23:24, Eze 8:12, Luk 12:2-3, Heb 4:13). And affects those around you (2 Sam 11:3-4, 2 Sam 11:5-27, 2 Sam 12:14-24). Finally, though our sin is forgiven, there we still be consequences (2 Sam 12:9-31).