

A Day in Parables

Let's consider the parables that Jesus taught one day in Matthew 13 concerning the word of God.

First, he taught the parable of Sower in 13:3-9 (13:18-23). Here, we learn that some people will hear the word of God and obey, and some will not.

Second, he taught the parable of tares in 13:24-30 (13:36-43). Here, we learn that the word of God competes with the influence of the devil.

Third, he taught parables of the mustard seed (13:31-32) and leaven (13:33). Here, we learn that the word of God takes time to grow in a person's life.

Fourth, he taught the parables of the hidden treasure (13:44) and pearl of great price (13:45). Here, we learn that the word of God is so valuable that we must sacrifice all for it.

Fifth, he taught the parable of the drag net in 13:47-50. Here, we learn that the word of God separates the good from the bad.

Finally, Jesus taught the parable of the householder in 13:51-52. Here, we learn the importance of understanding new truths in the word of God. Friend, will you hear, understand, and obey the word of God today? - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- Sorrow looks behind; worry looks ahead; but, faith looks up.
- Guard your heart because as you think, so you are.
- Go about always doing good and you won't get into evil.
- You cannot afford the high price of sin.
- A strong faith in your heart will be seen by good works in your life.

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ
290 Warfield Blvd.
Clarksville, TN 37043

Website
wbcoc.org

Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

Everyone Is Welcome!
For More Information Call
(931) 647-1324

Published and Edited By
Chris Reeves
(615) 389-3250
chrisreevesmail@gmail.com
TheGoodTeacher.com

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

*A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; even as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.
- John 13:34-35 -*

Love one another, for love is of God. What a great sentiment! Loving our brethren is important. Brotherly love is part of practicing the “whole counsel of God” (Acts 20:27). Brotherly love will help avoid local church division and destruction. Brotherly love will help stimulate inactive members to be more active in the Lord’s work. You just can’t go wrong with more brotherly love.

Brotherly Love

In John 13:34-35, Jesus gave a “new” command to love one another. This command was not new in time because the commandment to love had already been given back in Leviticus 19:18, 34. This command was new in kind. It was a command to love one another in a different way - sacrificially (1 John 3:16). Brethren are to sacrifice their time and talents for their brethren. Brethren are to sacrifice personal preferences for their brethren.

Now, the sacrificial love that brethren have toward each other is not unqualified and without restrictions. It has its limits. Brethren should sacrifice for each other without sacrificing truth (Ephesians 4:15) and they should sacrifice for each other without sinning (Revelation 3:19).

What Will Brotherly Love Accomplish?

Just think about all the good that will be accomplished individually, in the local church, and in the brotherhood, if more brethren loved one another. Here are some good things that will be accomplished:

- Brethren will be honored (Romans 12:10; 13:8).
- Personal consciences will be respected (Romans 14:15).
- Personal harm will be avoided (Galatians 5:13-15).
- Unity will be maintained (Ephesians 4:2).
- Personal growth will abound (1 Thessalonians 3:12; 4:9; 2 Thessalonians 1:3; 2 Pet. 1:7).

- Good works will be stirred up (Hebrews 10:24-25).
- Brethren around the world will be treated properly (1 Peter 2:17).
- Needy brethren will be cared for (1 John 3:10-18,23).
- Hatred of brethren will cease (1 John 2:7-11; 3:15; 4:7,11-12,20-21).

What Kind of Love Is This?

What kind of love was Jesus talking about in John 13:34-35? It was a love “as I have loved you”. This is a love that is sacrificial (John 13:34-35; 15:12-17). It gives. This is a love that is balanced (1 Corinthians 13:4-7). It abhors evil and cleaves to good. This is a love that is selfless and serving (Galatians 5:13). It does good deeds. This is a love that is sincere and fervent (1 Peter 1:22). It is without hypocrisy. This is a love that is controlled by God’s commandments (2 John 5-6). It follows God’s word.

It’s time to let all men know that we are Jesus’ disciples. It’s time that we “let love of the brethren continue” (Hebrews 13:1)! - *Chris Reeves*