

Who do you say that I am?



Seeing Jesus

through new eyes

I Speak In Parables
I will open My mouth in parables

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Week 6



Rabbinic Teaching

Jewish Cultural Context

- Religion as a way of life
- Everything is theological
- Availability of Scripture
- Learning from memorization

Rabbi

- Itinerant sage
- It was a hard life
- Rabbis had to earn a living
- How the rabbi lived was his teaching of Torah

Disciples

- Covered in the dust of the rabbi
- Walk after him (had to live like the rabbi)
- Making of disciples
- Being fully engaged
- Invitation to repent

*In his actions,
speech,
bearing, and
faithfulness,
man must
make Torah
manifest.*

- Rabbi Sarah

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Painting Verbal Pictures

Contour of Hebrew Thought

- Hebrew is a **colorful language**, not a precise analytical
- Paint a **verbal picture** with the broad stroke.
- From a Jewish perspective, God is not understood philosophically, but **functionally. God acts.** Example: a loving God versus a God who is love.
- Hebrew mindset would have little interest in the topics that consumed the church over the years.
- **Daily events** in the lives of people are second only to God in significance. Down to earth humanness and openness.
- How much God cared to bring the Word of Scripture **down to the human level where we could grasp it.**

*Painting a
picture of how
God acts*

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Parables

In the manner of the rabbinic sages

- Jesus taught in the manner of **other rabbinic sages**
- Parables are/were **common** in Jewish rabbinic teaching (4,000 parables in rabbinic literature)
- Parables **became widely used** in the inter-testamental period
- Parable: *mashal* (a shadow, that which is cast alongside)
- Jesus had special authority, being the **Son of God**
- **Concrete/compact illustration** that taught from everyday life; providing a profound truth
- The parable was a message to **reach the heart** of the listener through imagination. Intuition rather than exposition.
- **Layers of meaning**

*A picture is
worth a
thousand
words*

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Parables

In the manner of the rabbinic sages

- **Purpose:** to instruct, illustrate, teach; revealing spiritual truths.
- **Message:** Taught about God, his character, and our relationship to him (*aggada*)
 - Character of God
 - Kingship of God
 - Aspects of Discipleship
- **Application:** What do I do with the message?

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Parable of the Debtors

Luke 7:36-50

*“The one who
had the bigger
debt forgiven”*



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Parable of the Debtors

- Possibly taught at synagogue and invited to home of Pharisee
- Woman who was a sinner (gentile or extreme Jew)
- Greeting the rabbi with a kiss (friendship, covenantal devotion)
- Lowest servant would wash Jesus' feet
- If this man was a prophet...
- Alludes to Divine identity
- The role of Simon and the woman
- Teaching of the Pharisees was commendable:
 - Resentence (teshuva)
 - Did not reject those who repented
- Rabbinic Teaching: "a repentant sinner is in a more exalted place than a righteous saint." "even if your sins reached to the throne of God, if you had the repentance the size of the eye of a needle; they would be forgiven."
- **God's willingness to forgive all those who repent.**

*Teshuva:
Turning Back*

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Parable of the Lost Son

Luke 15:11-31



*“Give me my
share of the
estate”*

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Parable of the Lost Son

Verses 15:11-13

- Seized the heart of the audience
- Unprecedented in Jewish custom before death
- Ultimate insult: “drop dead”
- Huge esteem for parents and elderly
- “Honor you father and mother...” (Exo. 20:12)
- The father gives in to the son
- Shares wealth with both
- Older brother had duty to correct, but remained quiet
- Father had the right to rebuke, beat, or cast out his son

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Parable of the Lost Son

Verses 15:14-31

- The father goes against cultural expectation and legal right; extending mercy, humiliating himself, and putting himself in jeopardy for the sake of his children.
- Father who abounds in *hesed* love, mercy overshadowing justice, even when insulted.
 - *Hesed*: kindness, love, loyalty, mercy, steadfast love, loyal love, covenant love, unfailing love, loving-kindness
- The community would have been aghast at this situation: “that rebellious son of yours has the audacity to return home”.
- My son was dead (never existed).
- Older son refuses to go in (humiliate father and has to go out to get him)
- What does the older son do? Are we the older son?
- **God of mercy and favor for all those who repent.**

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Who do you say that I am? Seeing Jesus through new eyes

- 1 Introduction: A Different Perspective
- 2 Jesus of Nazareth: The Jewishness of Jesus
- 3 Who do you say the Son of Man is?
- 4 In My Father's house: Who Jesus Said he was
 - No Sunday School (Easter)
- 5 Come Follow Me: The Rabbi and Disciples
- 6 I Speak In Parables
- 7 **Time with God: The Climax of Living**
- 8 Everyone who heard Him was amazed
- 9 I have come to fulfill them: Our Hebrew speaking Lord
- 10 Repent for the Kingdom is at hand
- 11 Humbly walk with your God: Living the Torah

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