

THE STORYTELLER

Week 7: Parallel Economics

Sermon Series:

We launched a new series! For the next 13 weeks, we are going to unpack the parables of Jesus, investigating the parables from the Gospel of Matthew and Luke.

Last week, Jeff defined a parable as a story that explains our reality giving a new or greater understanding of the world around us. Specifically, concerning God and our relationship with God. Key to parables is their depth and layers, they are stories that come alongside our own circumstances.

As we go through this series remember Jeff's 4 steps to consider: 1. What is the context in which the parable is told? 2. What are the indispensable plot elements? 3. What was the meaning at that moment, in that setting? 4. How does that meaning adapt to our cultural setting today?

The purpose of this sermon series is to draw us in, pique our curiosity, and sit with Jesus. You are invited to pull up a chair ask questions, be confused, wonder, and listen to the parable of Jesus.

Message Focus:

Parallel Economics

The Passages: Luke 16:1-15

The Framework Breakdown:

1.) Before we jump into reflections on the parable, I want to think about difficult passages we find in Scripture. First, what makes a particular passage (or story) difficult in Scripture? In the past, how have you been taught to interpret or read difficult passages (or do you just skip over them, why)? Who do you seek out to help you interpret difficult passages (a pastor, author, friend, family, book, etc...), what for? In your opinion what are some of the most difficult passages in Scripture, and why? What is the purpose of these difficult passages?

2.) Looking at the two characters in this story, what stands out about the master? Now, what stands out about the manager? Is there anything in this parable worth imitating, why or why not? Are these characters of imitation or is there a deeper story Jesus is telling through this parable, explain your answers. Finally, why does Jesus use such interesting characters for this parable?

3.) So far, this is the third parable we have heard from Jesus that involves money (See Mat. 20:1-16 and Luke 16:19-31). Up to this point, how are money and wealth depicted through Jesus' parables? Using Mat. and Luke where else does Jesus talk about money, wealth, the rich and poor? What is Jesus trying to tell us through these parables about money/wealth/the rich and poor? How should these parables influence the way the church and Christians earn, use, save, spend, and give of their money?