

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

How to Study Parables

Lesson # 5 (Answers to homework)

Summary For Interpreting Parables

- Look for repetition in threes
- Look for the situation or need that prompted Jesus to give the parable
- Look for the main point or punch line at the end of the parable that matches the situation or need
- Do any cultural studies if necessary
- Use cross reference, remember, Jesus gave some parables more than once and changed them a bit to fit a different situation or need
- Interpret details properly and beware of over spiritualizing

I. HOMEWORK

Read Luke 12:16-21 the Parable of the Rich Fool

1. What is the situation or need, which led to Jesus' giving the parable? ***"Tell my brother to Share the inheritance with me" vs. 13.***
2. What is the main point in the parable, which addresses the main problem, situation, or need? ***Greed. "Even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions" vs. 15.***
3. What cultural customs or background information is helpful in interpreting the parable (if any)? ***Not really any. Greed and hoarding transcends culture.***
4. Is the parable given anywhere else? At the same time? To the same group of people? To meet the same need, problem, or situation? ***No***
5. What details have spiritual meaning and which do not?
 - a. ***Rich fool = anyone who is not rich toward God and greedy.***
 - b. ***Possessions = any worldly treasures or God given gifts***
6. How does the main point of this parable apply to you personally?
 - a. ***Don't be greedy.***
 - b. ***Don't think that life consists of possessions.***
 - c. ***Don't let the world fool you into lusting after the things of the World as if they define what life is.***
 - d. ***Don't presume upon God by thinking you are in control of your soul.***
 - e. ***Don't presume upon God by thinking you have many years to live.***
 - f. ***Use your earthly possessions to do God's will.***
 - g. ***Treat every day as if it were your last.***
 - h. ***Be generous with what God has given you.***

- i. **Give God the glory for what you have.**
- j. **Remember that life begins after we die and this life is not all there is.**
- k. **Remember that you will be judged in the future by God for how you act here and now.**