

Remembering the Words of Jesus



33rd Annual

Biblical Viewpoints Lectureship

November 3–7, 2013

*I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, **It is more blessed to give than to receive.***

Acts 20:35

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DEDICATION

by Roby Ellis



Since Biblical Viewpoints was launched more than 30 years ago, one constant that always remained was Clayton Winters, whose dedication to the program was well known to everyone. Clayton was not only the face in front of the camera, but also the biggest contributor in every way behind the scenes.



It was always Clayton's dream for Biblical Viewpoints to have its own recording studio, and for several years he experimented with amateur recording equipment, trying to learn the trade of filmmaking on his own time and his own dime. When his dream of building a studio was realized in 2002, Clayton busied himself in building not only lesson outlines and PowerPoint presentations, but also the desks and cabinets that would be used throughout the studio.



Clayton was never satisfied with the status quo; he was an innovator, always ready to experiment with something new. The advent of digital media thrilled him, as did the idea of building the new studio downstairs. I consider it a blessing that Clayton not only got to see the new studio, but also was well enough to record a few programs in it after its completion.



Clayton Winters made a difference in the lives of a lot of people. One brother in London, Kentucky, told me recently that Clayton inspired him to study the Scriptures in a way that he never had in his earlier years as a Christian. To me Clayton was a mentor, a confidant, and a dear friend whom I sorely miss.



More than anything else, Clayton loved the Lord. He loved the gospel that he preached, and he loved the souls to whom he preached it. In the area of Bible scholarship he had few peers and no superiors. Clayton's influence is sure to live on for many years, and I have no doubt that many souls have been won because of his lifelong commitment to preaching God's Word.

*This book is lovingly dedicated to
Clayton & Vivian Winters.*

To God be the glory!

Words Worth Remembering

Sunday AM, November 3, 2013

Roby Ellis

Scripture Reading: Acts 20:32–35 (NKJV)

“So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³I have coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. ³⁵I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

Introduction

- A. There are certain sayings that you just never forget.
 - 1. There are lines from commercials and political speeches that stay with us.
 - 2. You might remember something your parents or grandparents used to say.
 - 3. We may hear people quote from Confucius or Plato, but there is no one whose words have ever been as memorable as Jesus of Nazareth.
- B. When and where had Paul heard these words from Jesus?
 - 1. It is almost certain that Paul would have heard Jesus teach in the temple during one of His visits to Jerusalem.
 - 2. Paul tells us that he was taught the gospel directly by Jesus (Gal. 1:12) just as the other apostles had been.
 - 3. Precisely when and where this instruction took place is not revealed to us.
- C. There are many things that Jesus said that we should always try to remember.

Discussion

- I. Jesus’ words are worth remembering for several important reasons.
 - A. No one ever spoke like Him.
 - 1. There have been men and women with great gifts for oratory, but no one has ever captured the hearts of men and inspired the way Jesus does.
 - 2. When Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount, “the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes” (Matt. 7:28–29).

3. When the chief priests and Pharisees asked the officers they had sent to arrest Jesus why they had returned empty-handed, they replied, “No man ever spoke like this Man!” (John 7:46).
 4. People often crowded together to hear Jesus speak.
 - i. When news traveled around Capernaum that Jesus was there, “immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them” as He preached the word to them (Mark 2:2).
 - ii. On another occasion when He preached beside the Galilee, “a great multitude was gathered to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat in it on the sea” (Mark 4:1) as He taught them using parables.
 5. Jesus’ words often left people spellbound, like the time when He brilliantly answered the Herodians’ question about the payment of tribute (Matt. 22:22).
- B. His words are powerful.
1. So widely was this known that a certain centurion had the faith to say, “Only speak a word, and my servant will be healed” (Matt. 8:8).
 2. When people brought to Jesus their loved ones who were possessed, Jesus “cast out the spirits with a word” (Matt. 8:16).
 3. When Jesus taught in Capernaum, the people “were astonished at His teaching, for His word was with authority” (Luke 4:32), and when He cast out demons, they said, “What a word this is! For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out” (v 36).
 4. His words have the power to cleanse us (John 15:3) and to sanctify us (17:17).
- C. We will be judged by the words of Jesus.
1. Jesus declared,

If anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day (John 12:47–48).
 2. John “saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened.... And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books” (Rev. 20:12).
- D. His words are the source of eternal life.

1. Jesus told the Jews, “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life” (John 5:24).
2. When Jesus said something that offended many, He declared, “The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life” (John 6:63).
Note: When He asked the twelve if they would leave Him as so many did that day, Peter replied, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life” (v 68).
3. There is no question why John would make reference to Jesus with the phrase “the Word of life” (1 John 1:1).

E. Jesus’ words are marvelous, but there are some things we should know about them.

II. There are some things we should understand about the words of Jesus.

A. Sometimes they mean more to us with the passage of time.

1. There may be times when you read something from the Scriptures that don’t make sense to you. When that is the case, just give it some time.
2. When Jesus told Mary and Joseph, that He “must be about [His] Father’s business,” Luke says that they “did not understand the statement,” but “His mother kept all things [sayings (KJV)] in her heart” (Luke 2:49–51).
3. When Jesus said that He would rebuild the temple in three days, everyone misunderstood Him, but “when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them” (John 2:22).
4. When Jesus told the twelve plainly that He would be killed and resurrected the third day, “they understood none of these things; this saying was hidden from them” (Luke 18:34).

B. At times they can be very comforting.

1. It must have been comforting when the women found the tomb empty and then were reminded of how Jesus had said He would be crucified and rise again the third day (Luke 24:8).
2. When the disciples began to suffer persecution for Jesus’ sake, it must have comforting to them to remember Jesus’ words on this matter.
 - i. Jesus had said, “Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also” (John 15:20).

- ii. Later in the same discussion He said, “These things I have told you, that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them” (16:4).
 - 3. In times of distress, there are no words more encouraging and comforting to the heart than those spoken by Jesus.
- C. Sometimes they are hard to accept.
- 1. When the rich young ruler heard what Jesus would have him to do, “he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful” (Mark 10:22).
 - 2. Jesus own disciples sometimes found His words hard to accept.
 - i. When He told them that it is difficult with those with riches to enter the kingdom, they “were astonished at His words” (v 24).
 - ii. They also found His teaching about divorce hard to accept (Matt. 19:10), just as many still do today.
 - 3. When Jesus said that one must eat His flesh and drink His blood to have life, some said, “This is a hard saying; who can understand it?” (John 6:60).
- D. Sometimes they are painful to remember.
- 1. When Peter denied the Lord the third time on the night of His arrest, Luke says, the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” So Peter went out and wept bitterly (Luke 22:61–62).
 - 2. Are there any of Jesus’ words you would prefer to forget?
- E. Sometimes they cause offense and strife.
- 1. When Jesus condemned the Pharisees for exalting their traditions above Scripture, the disciples said, “Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?” (Matt. 15:12).
 - 2. When Jesus spoke of laying down His life and taking it again, “there was a division again among the Jews because of these sayings” (John 10:19).
 - 3. Jesus said,
 - Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to ‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law’; and ‘a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.’ (Matt. 10:34–36).
- F. Are you willing to accept the words of Jesus no matter what?

III. How should we respond to the words of Jesus?

A. We should be eager to hear them.

1. When Jesus came into the home of Lazarus, Mary, and Martha, the latter was busy serving, but Mary “sat at Jesus’ feet and heard His word” (Luke 10:39).
2. Those who followed Jesus in the wilderness continued in some cases for days at a time without making any provision at all for the flesh (Matt. 15:32).

B. We should let them sink deep inside us.

1. Only days before His crucifixion, Jesus told the twelve, “Let these words sink down into your ears, for the Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men” (Luke 9:44).
 - i. Luke reveals that they didn’t understand this saying (v 45).
 - ii. This becomes clear when they begin arguing with one other regarding which of them should be the greatest in the coming kingdom (v 46) and want to consume the men of a Samaritan village with fire (v 54).
2. The psalmist said, “Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You” (Ps. 119:11).

C. We should live by them.

1. We know that “man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God” (Matt. 4:4).
2. Jesus said, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31–32).
3. Again Jesus says, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words” (John 14:23–24).
4. The wise man is he who hears Jesus’ sayings and does them (Matt. 7:24–27).

D. We must not be ashamed of them.

1. Jesus said, “Whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels” (Mark 8:38).
2. Paul would say, “I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek” (Rom. 1:16; cf. 2 Tim. 1:12).

3. Even though Jesus' words may be offensive to some and may cause division, we must never be ashamed of them, for they are the words of life.

Conclusion and Invitation

- A. No matter how man may do with Jesus' words, they will abide to the end.
 1. Some remember them, but for the wrong purpose (Matt. 27:63).
 2. Some remember them, but misunderstand or misapply them (John 21:23).
 3. Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away" (Matt. 24:35).
 4. We may choose to ignore or forget the words of Jesus, but they will stand to judge us on the last day.
- B. When we stand before God on that day, Jesus will say, "Depart from Me, you cursed" (Matt. 25:41), or, "Come, you blessed of My Father" (v 34). Either way, these are words we will never forget!

Remembering the Preaching of Jesus Eddy Craft

Introduction:

- A. In this lesson I will be looking at The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7).
 - B. Could you think of a more powerful sermon ever delivered than this one?
 - C. Notice some of the things we can learn about preaching from the points Jesus makes from these chapters.
- I. **The Place where Jesus taught them. He went into a mountain and sat down. Often Jesus would go into a mountain to pray or teach.**
 - A. We are not told what mountain this is, some call it the "Mount of the Beatitudes."
 - B. Luke says he went to level place on the mountain (Luke 6:12, 17).
 - II. **Personal Blessings (Matthew 5:1-12):**
 - A. Nine times the word "Blessed" is used.
 - B. A man will always be blessed that does the will of God!
 - III. **Personal Blessing to the World (Matthew 5:13-16):**
 - A. Christians will always bless the world in which they live.
 - B. The disciples were to be a light and salt to the world where they lived.
 - IV. **Preaching of the Prophets (Matthew 5:17-20):**
 - A. Jesus did not come to destroy the law and the prophets but to fulfill them.
 - B. Jesus respected the prophets. He honored their teaching.
 - V. **The Preaching of Jesus Was Pointed (Matthew 5:21-48):**
 - A. He did not beat around the bush as we some time say.
 - B. They did not have to wonder who he was talking to.
 - VI. **Jesus Preaching Was Practical (Matthew Chapter 6):**
 - A. He taught them the proper way to live in respect to their alms, prayers, fasting, stewardship and that they could not serve two masters.
 - B. He did not want them to be like the Pharisees. They said and did not (Matthew 23:1-3).
 - VII. **Jesus Preaching Taught Them To Live Persistent (Matthew 7:1-20):**
 - A. It's not good enough to just start doing the right but you must keep on to the end.
 - B. We must keep on seeking and knocking in order to find.
 - VIII. **Jesus Preaching Was Prescriptive (Matthew 7:21-27):**
 - A. To be saved one must obey the will of the Father.
 - B. This is consistent with Hebrews 5:8-9.
 - C. It is not good enough to just say Lord, Lord (Luke 6:46).
 - IX. **Jesus Preached With Power (Matthew 7:28-29):**
 - A. No one ever preached like Jesus!
 - B. Will we obey His voice?

Conclusion:

- A. How precious to remember the words of Jesus.
- B. The Sermon on the Mount is a very special sermon that gets right down where we live.
- C. These chapters can be a blessing to our lives.

REMEMBERING THE PRAYERS OF JESUS

David Irick

INTRODUCTION

A whole lectureship could be presented on the topic assigned to me. While much *more* could be said about the prayers of Jesus I have limited our study to a few important points.

DISCUSSION

I. FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS WE LEARN THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER.

A. Jesus Placed A Priority On Praying.

- a. Lk. 5:16; 6:12; 9:18,28; 11:1; 18:1; 22:41
- b. Too often we place praying in a category of 'when I get time'. We pray before mealtime and say a hasty prayer because food is on the table and we are ready to eat. We pray before bedtime and struggle to concentrate and sometimes find ourselves falling asleep. We need to make quality time to pray when we can be alone without distraction.

B. Jesus Taught Us To Be Persistent In Prayer.

- a. Lk. 18:1-5 (Unjust judge)
- b. Matt. 26:44
 1. Was Jesus uncertain the Father heard him the first and second time? –No!
 2. Did Jesus lack faith the first two times he prayed? –No!
- c. Being persistence in prayer shows an earnest sincerity and genuine *need!*

II. REMEMBERING THE PRAYERS OF JESUS WE LEARN WHAT THE NATURE OF OUR PRAYERS SHOULD BE LIKE.

A. Jesus Prayed In Humility.

- a. Phil. 2:6-7 (Remember Jesus was more than a man, but still consider his attitude)
- b. Matt. 11:25 Lord: "*he to whom a person or thing belongs, about which he has the power of deciding; master, lord*" –Thayer
- c. Matt. 6:9 Hallowed: "*render or declare sacred or holy, consecrate.*" –Thayer

B. Jesus Brought His Petitions To The Father, But Prayed 'Thy Will Be Done'.

- a. Mk. 14:36 / Lk. 22:41-44
- b. Jer. 10:23
- c. In humility we must acknowledge that fact that God is in heaven and we are on earth. He is the creator, we are the created. I don't know the future, but God in heaven does! My knowledge is limited, but He is omniscient!
- d. Job 3:1-11 (There was so much that Job didn't know: 1). The conversation between God and Job; 2). The reason he was suffering; 3). His future blessings; etc.)
- e. I Kings 19:1-10 Elijah (There was so much the Elijah didn't know!)

C. Jesus Knew That Strength Could Be Found In Prayer.

- a. Lk. 22:42-43
- b. Lk. 22:46 (Jesus implied that strength could be attained through prayer)
- c. Mk. 9:29 (Fasting help bring about the right attitude in prayer as well as keeping us in persistent prayer to God)

CONCLUSION

1. John 9:31 (Are you in a position to pray to the Father?)
2. Plan of salvation.

REMEMBERING THE PROVERBS OF JESUS

Dan C. Bailey

INTRODUCTION:

1. Let us open up the Book of Books and let us receive the Word with all readiness of mind. (Acts 17:11; Psalm 119:16)
2. We are going to examine four proverbial sayings of Christ. One proverb was actually anticipated by Christ and used against Him.
3. A godly proverb is a short statement of truth and wisdom, which serves to guide one to better living.
4. A proverb is like a hickory nut which the squirrel cracks open for joyful nourishment.
5. God's proverbs should be joyfully understood and received with humility.
6. The proverbs of Jesus that we will focus on in this lesson will be:
 - a. **A proverb of God's mercy** - Matthew 9:9-13
 - b. **A proverb of man's stubbornness** - Luke 4:16-30
 - c. **A proverb of God's wisdom** - Luke 7:28-35
 - d. **A proverb of man's choice** - Luke 8:8

I. A Proverb of God's Mercy

- A. Matthew 9:9-13
- B. **"They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick."** (Matt. 9:12).
- C. God delights in mercy and forgiveness.
- D. Song: *"Hallelujah! What A Savior!"* (by Phillip P. Bliss)
- E. Luke 19:10
- F. Matthew 18:11
- G. Hosea 6:6
- H. II Peter 3:9

II. A Proverb of Man's Stubbornness

- A. Luke 4:16-30
- B. **"Physician, heal thyself:** whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country." (Luke 4:23).
- C. Jesus anticipated a Proverb that would be used by those in Nazareth who rejected him.
 1. The logic was theirs, not God's.
 2. Many are like this today.
 3. Men do not command God, God commands men!
- D. If we do not reject our own ways and stubbornness, we will surely be lost!
 1. Proverbs 14:12
 2. Jeremiah 10:23
 3. Proverbs 21:2

4. Proverbs 28:26
5. Matthew 16:24-26

III. A Proverb of God's Wisdom

- A. Luke 7:28-35
- B. Jesus gave a proverb of God's wisdom.
 1. **"But wisdom is justified of all her children."** (Luke 7:35).
 2. The children of wisdom are those who listen to God's wisdom!
 3. God sent two different preachers, John and Christ. They rejected both!
- C. God sent John the Baptist or John the Immerser; some accepted, some rejected.
- D. As the Almighty God of perfect holiness, God expects men to heed His wisdom by faithful obedience.
 1. Isaiah 6:3
 2. II Corinthians 5:7
 3. Romans 10:17

IV. A Proverb of Man's Choice

- A. Luke 8:8 - **"...He that hath ears to hear, let him hear."**
- B. One of the most common sayings of Christ.
- C. Salvation
 1. Planned by God the Father
 2. Executed by Jesus, the Son of God, who died for our sins
 3. Confirmed by the miracles through the power of the Holy Spirit
- D. The seed is the Word of God (Luke 8:11; Mark 4:14).
 1. The Word must be heard and kept.
 2. Those who wander away from God need to be restored.
 - a. Galatians 6:1-2
 - b. James 5:19-20
 - c. Acts 8:22
 - d. Daniel 12:3
 - e. Proverbs 11:30

V. Summary and Conclusion

- A. Jesus gave a proverb of mercy and forgiveness. (Matthew 9:9-13).
 1. **"They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick."**
 2. He is the Great Physician, but you must come to the Doctor of your salvation.
 3. His blood is the cure and his gospel is the means of accepting it.
 4. Romans 1:16
- B. Jesus anticipated a proverb of stubbornness. (Luke 4:16-30).
 1. **"Physician heal thyself."**
 2. Don't try to tell God how you are going to be saved!
 3. God tells us how to be saved, and then we must believe and obey or be lost.
 - a. Mark 16:15-16

- b. Acts 22:16
- C. Jesus invites us to accept God's wisdom. (Luke 7:28-35).
 - 1. **"Wisdom is justified of all her children."**
 - 2. The lost need to become children of wisdom.
 - a. Galatians 3:26-29
 - b. I Corinthians 1:18
- D. We've come down to the Proverb of man's choice! (Luke 8:8)
 - 1. **"He that hath ears to hear, let him hear."**
 - 2. Do you realize, my friend, that if you are lost it will be of your own choosing?
 - 3. Why not come to Jesus now?
 - 4. Renounce your stubborn pride and be cleansed by the blood of the Lamb!

David R. Pharr
Rock Hill, SC

The Prophecies of Jesus

1. A prophet is a person who communicates a message from God. This is the point in Hebrews 1:1-2. "God hath spoken . . . by his son." There were prophets in the Old Testament times. There were prophets in New Testament times. But the supreme law giving Prophet, the final prophet, is Jesus Christ. There is no escape for one who will not hear (Hebrews 2:1ff). Peter makes the same point in Acts 3:22-23.

*For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; **him shall ye hear in all things** whatsoever he shall say unto you. ²³ And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.*
2. Let's consider some points of emphasis in Deuteronomy 18:18-22.

*I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put **my words in his mouth**; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. [The message is from God.] ¹⁹ And it shall come to pass, that **whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak** in my name, I will require it of him. [Consequences for failure to heed. Cf. Matthew 17:5.]*

*²⁰ But the prophet, which shall **presume to speak a word in my name**, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. [Warning concerning false prophets (cf. II Peter 2:1; I John 4:1).]*

*²¹ And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? ²² When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, **if the thing follow not**, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him. [Predictions fulfilled demonstrate the divine inspiration of the prophet.]*
3. Every teaching of Jesus is a message from God. In this lesson we are looking especially at how predictive prophecy spoken by Jesus was fulfilled.
 - I. **Jesus instructed his disciples that as events occurred they would remember that these were things he had foretold.**
 - A. He made this point in foretelling the betrayal by Judas (John 13:18ff)

Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he (19).
 - B. On that same occasion in the upper room he spoke of his coming passion and the things they would suffer. He explained:

But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you (John 16:4).
 - II. **Numerous examples can be cited in which Jesus specified certain coming events which were exactly fulfilled.**
 - A. Peter's denial (Matthew 26:34).
 - B. His passion and resurrection.

And they were in the way going up to Jerusalem; and Jesus went before them: and they were amazed; and as they followed, they were afraid. And he took again the twelve, and began to tell them what things should happen unto him, ³³ Saying, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles: ³⁴ And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again. (Mark 10:32-34).

- C. He repeatedly specified that his resurrection would be on the "third day." This is found in more than a dozen texts. Even his enemies understood that this is what he had declared.
For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth (Matthew 12:40).
Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. . . . ²² When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said. (John 2:19, 22).
- D. The angel at the tomb reminded the women that Jesus had foretold his resurrection.
He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. And they remembered his words (Luke 24:6-8).

III. **Jesus' predictions regarding the ultimate destruction of Jerusalem in A. D. 70 are a dramatic demonstration of his fulfilled prophecies.**

- A. This is a well-documented event of history. Josephus, the Jewish historian, records much detail about the horror of the Roman siege under the Roman general Titus, the suffering and deaths, everything torn to the ground. He claimed over 1,100,000 killed and close to a hundred thousand made slaves.
 "The slaughter within was even more dreadful than the spectacle from without. Men and women, old and young, insurgents and priests, those who fought and those who entreated mercy, were hewn down in indiscriminate carnage. The number of the slain exceeded that of the slayers. The legionaries had to clamber over heaps of dead to carry on the work of extermination."
 Consider what Jesus predicted and how Josephus showed it was fulfilled.
For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be (Matthew 24:21).
 "That neither did any other city ever suffer such miseries, nor did any age ever breed a generation more fruitful of wickedness than this was, from the beginning of the world" (Josephus).
- B. Matthew 24 (and parallel passages) gives the Lord's prophecies of the destruction of Jerusalem.
1. The disciples asked three questions. They may have thought all were on the same event, but Jesus' answer pertains to two different events.
 2. There were specific signs which would signal impending destruction of the temple and the city. Knowing these things believers would leave in order to escape the horror. Notice in particular:
 - a. When the gospel had been preached to all nations (14; cf. Colossians 1:23).
 - b. When the desolation foretold by Daniel (15; Daniel 9), which is explained in Luke as the Roman siege.

For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, ⁴⁴ And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation (Luke 19: 43f).

And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh (Luke 21:20).

Early historians say that faithful Christians believed these prophecies and when they saw the Romans approaching knew that they should escape.

- c. There is obvious figurative language in this section, but the statement in verse 34 makes it clear that he is pointing to what would occur in that period of history.

Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled (34).

- C. Jesus came to his own and they did not receive him (John 1:11). The destruction of Jerusalem was vindication of his claims to be the Messiah (Matthew 24:30). This was *“the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”*
- D. Then Jesus answers the question of the end of the world (36ff). It is especially to be noted that his prophecy about the fall of Jerusalem was perfectly fulfilled. It was (with all his other prophecies) a demonstration of the certainty of his promises and warnings. With this in view we can be certain of his coming, the resurrection, end of the world, and the judgment.

Conclusion:

See II Peter 3:3-11.

Remembering the Parables of Jesus

By Wesley Simons

Introduction

1. Anything Jesus says is important.
2. The parables are extremely important because they were spoken by Jesus. Also, because of the great truths they contain.
3. We will take a look at this great teaching tool.

I. Preface To The Parables

- A. The Greek word parable means to throw down beside.
- B. As defined by Vine's Expository Dictionary of N.T. Words, it "signifies a placing of one thing beside another with a view to comparison"
- C. A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.
- D. A parable is based on that which is true or could be true.
- E. Parables usually have one main lesson:
 1. Luke 18:1 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;
 2. Luke 18:9 And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:
- F. It is a mistake to try to make every word in a parable mean something.

II. Preacher Of The Parables

- A. Matthew 13:34-35 All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them: [35] That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.
- B. There are eight writers of the New Testament. How many parables did they present?
- C. Try to make up your own parable!

III. Purpose Of The Parables

- A. Conceal Truth
 1. Mark 4:11 And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables:
- B. Reveal Truth
 1. Matthew 13:10-11 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? [11] He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.
 2. If the disciples did not understand a parable, the Lord would explain it unto them.
 - a. The parable of the sower – Mark 4:13-14 And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables? [14] The sower soweth the word.
 - b. The parable of the tares -- Matthew 13:36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field.
- C. Embalm Truth
 1. The good Samaritan – Luke 10:25-37
 2. The prodigal son – Luke 15:11-24
 3. The pearl of great price – Matthew 13:45-46
 4. Lost sheep – Luke 15:3-7

- D. Cause One To Condemn Self
 1. David and the little ewe lamb – 2 Samuel 12:1-14
 2. The Pharisees and Publicans – would see the lesson and then see that Jesus had them in mind.
 3. Do we see ourselves in the parables?

IV. Prime Focus Of The Parables

- A. The kingdom of God
 1. The kingdom of God is like unto ---
- B. The parables apply to the church. Therefore, the church and the kingdom are one and the same institution.
- C. The kingdom of God and the kingdom of Heaven
 1. Matthew 13:10-11 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? [11] He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the **kingdom of heaven**, but to them it is not given.
 - a. Mark 4:11 And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the **kingdom of God**: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables:
 2. Matthew 19:23-24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the **kingdom of heaven**. [24] And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the **kingdom of God**.

V. Principles Taught In The Parables

- A. Prayer – Luke 18
- B. Benevolence – Luke 10
- C. Forgiveness – Matthew 18
- D. Personal work – Luke 15
- E. Value of soul – Matthew 25
- F. Kinds of hearts – Matthew 13
- G. Staying prepared – Matthew 25
- H. Using talents – Matthew 25
- I. Counting the cost- Luke 14
- J. Pearl of great price – Matthew 13
- K. Judgment – Matthew 25
- L. Materialism – Luke 12
- M. Self-righteousness – Luke 18

VI. Priceless Truths In The Parables For Exposing False Doctrine

- A. **The kingdom is here:** Matthew 25:1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.
- B. **The rapture is false:** Matthew 13:30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.
- C. **Once saved always saved is false:** Matthew 13:41-42 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; [42] And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.
- D. **Direct operation of the Holy Spirit is false:** Luke 8:11-12 Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. [12] Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the

devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

E. There is no hell is false: Matthew 25:30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

F. Universalism is false: Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

VI. Prize of The Parables

A. Matthew 13:43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

B. Matthew 25:10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

Conclusion

A. Our Lord taught some of the greatest truths ever taught by way of the parables.

B. Every person on the face of the earth will become a better person by putting into practice the principles contained in the parables.

C. May God help us to put in practice that which is taught in the parables.

PROMISES OF JESUS—JOHN 14:1-2

Wayne Miller

Promises have been made to all of us in some way. It may be in form of a promise to pick you up at a certain time and place; to help you with a task on a certain day; to call you with some wanted information, to love, honor, and cherish you. Truth is, we've all had promises made to us.

The promises of Jesus, over 200 of them, are a tremendous source of strength, hope, encouragement, and provide us comfort for daily living. I want to focus on the words of Jesus in Matthew 11:28-30 in connection with Jesus' message to His disciples in John 14.

I want to read to you a page from the U.S. Government Peace Corps manual for the volunteers who work in the Amazon jungle. The page concerns what to do in case you are attacked by an Anaconda, the largest snake in the world. It grows to about 35 feet in length and weighs between 300 and 400 pounds. It squeezed it's victims to death. So, this instructional page is the strategy, steps to take, if attacked by an Anaconda.

1. If you are attacked, do not run. The snake is faster than you.
2. Lie flat on the ground, put your arms tight by your side, legs tight against each other.
3. Tuck you chin in.
4. The snake will come and begin to nudge and climb over your body.
5. Do not panic.
6. After the snake has examined you, it will begin to swallow you from the feet end—always at the feet end. Permit the snake to swallow your feet—do not panic.
7. The snake will begin to suck your legs into its body. You must lie perfectly still as this will take a long time.
8. When the snake has reached your knees, slowly, and with as little movement as possible, reach down, take your knife and very gently slide it into the side of the snake's mouth between the edge of its mouth and your leg. Then suddenly rip upwards, freeing yourself and rendering the snake helpless.
9. Be sure you have a knife.
10. Be sure you knife is sharp.

Well, we may not face being swallowed by a Anaconda but we do face big problems, stresses, and burdens in life that attempt to swallow us, overtake us, and we want a way out. Things like: how are we going to make ends meet financially? How are we going to resolve problems in our marriage? How can I stand strong against a sin I wrestle with for years? How do I let go of the guilt from something done in the past? How do I forgive someone that has wronged me?

Fact is, we may have long lists of stressors in our lives and things that constantly drag us down. These worries and questions occupy our time and energy. Would it not be nice if for every big issue in our lives we had a ten-step guide to help us fully escape? I am sorry to say, it is not that cut and dry. But, thankfully, the promises of Jesus provide us comfort and direction. Jesus extends an open invitation to us—"Come unto me all you who labor and are heavy laden" and the promise is: "I will give you rest!"

It is so rich to connect these words of promise to the words from Jesus in John 14:1-27. This message was severely needed by the disciples after the events of John 13. Judas had left to betray Jesus, Peter would deny the Christ that same night, and the cross was quickly approaching.

From a human perspective, everything was "coming unglued." Jesus began John 14 with the words—"Let not your heart be troubled" and repeated the words, adding "neither let it be afraid." The verses between these two 'bookends' contain the comforting meaning and promises of Jesus for them and for us today in our walk of faith. He gives them and us with many great and precious promises.

A PROMISED PLACE—JOHN 14:2, 3

Shortly after these words, Jesus was snatched away from the disciples by the soldiers sent to arrest Him. Suddenly, the disciples were left alone and must have been distraught by the event. Knowing how awful it is to be left alone, Jesus provided a new way to think about His approaching absence. Rather than viewing it as being abandoned, they were told to see it as a time when Jesus was going to prepare a place for them in His Father's house.

Today, when problems cause us to believe we are abandoned, forsaken, ignored, neglected by God, we should remember what Jesus taught the disciples to do when they felt forsaken at the cross. We should constantly keep before us that Jesus is preparing a place in His presence to be at home with God forever!

A PROMISED PATH—JOHN 14:4-11

In spite of their confusion, Jesus emphasized that He was the One on whom they should place all their attention as they prepared to face the cross with Him. Jesus, knowing that His disciple would be confused, disoriented, and discouraged when He was taken away from them, gave them a path to travel, a direction to look in their hour of trial. They should walk in His steps, because He was the only reliable guide to lead them to the Father—v.6.

Today, the message of Jesus is the same. He gently calls us to look to Him and walk after Him in our difficult times. In essence, He says, 'Follow Me!' Even through the storm, even you cannot see, even when it makes no sense, even when you have deep doubts, in your darkest hour and deepest valleys, follow Him. You will find that path will lead you to the Father!

A PROMISED PRESENCE—JOHN 14:12-14

Another resource Jesus offered His troubled disciples, in order to comfort them, was the promise of His continued presence in their lives. I heard a little girl too frightened to sleep and decided to go to her parents. She was told by them to go back to bed and sleep peacefully because God was watching out for her. Unimpressed with those words of comfort, she replied, "That may be true, but tonight I need someone with skin!" Another child came to his parents telling them he was scared. His father tried to convince him that God was right there in the room with him and there was absolutely nothing to fear. This little fellow, wanted more than the explanation. So, he suggested to his father, "Why don't you go sleep with God, and let me sleep with Mommy?"

Jesus reminded and assured the disciples that His physical absence would not limit nor hinder His ability to assist them. This was a promise they could trust even in their darkest and most troubling times.

What a great promise for us to remember in our walk of faith. The same power available to the disciples then is the same power available to us today. The promise of Jesus' presence is a light to our path and is an avenue of strength for us to recall in our lives.

A PROMISED PARTNER—JOHN 14:16-18, 25, 26

Jesus explained to His disciples on more than one occasion that He was 'going away' for a while (Jn. 13:33, 36; 14:2). However, He also informed them that His departure would not leave them orphans (14:18). In His place He would send them a 'helper, counselor, advocate.' The Greek word for "helper" means "one who comes alongside." In a court setting, it refers to the advocate who speaks on one's behalf. In other settings, it means anyone who is a helper in a time of need. All of these describe the Holy Spirit (14:26) whom Jesus sent to His followers upon His departure.

Like Jesus, the Holy Spirit is Divine. He lives today in the church (I Corinthians 3:16) and in individual Christians (I Corinthians 6:19). He is the power that transforms us more and more into the

image of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18) and produces the fruit of God in our lives (Galatians 5:22, 23).

True to the promise of Jesus, the Holy Spirit is a great source of comfort and help in the lives of God's people. Because the Spirit is with us, among us, and in us, we are not spiritual 'orphans' even though Jesus is no longer physically present on this earth.

I read about a man who became a Christian. Soon after being converted to Christ, he was asked, "If the Risen Christ suddenly appeared at this moment and stood behind you, what would you do?" The man replied, "He is!" Good and correct answer because Jesus is with us today in the Person of the Holy Spirit. We are not alone, even when our world is troubling!

A PROMISED PEACE—JOHN 14:27

This should not be a surprise for the disciples of Jesus then or today. When one reads and understands the promises of Jesus, earlier noted, it is only natural for the result to end in life of peace.

As is often the case, the Lord's idea about a given subject does not agree with the world's notion. The peace which comes to me through Jesus Christ is not the same thing that people of the world seek in the name of peace. The world usually thinks of peace in terms of personal contentment. If only I could have no financial burdens, own a nice home in the right neighborhood, enjoy the restful company of friends at their convenience. If peace is nothing more than this, it is simply a retreat from reality which satisfies our selfish desires.

The peace of which our Savior promises is much more than the mere cessation of open hostilities, more than the attitude of 'live and let live' approach to life. The Greek word was never used to signify the mere absence of fighting. It means completeness or wholeness; it embraces everything which makes for a person's highest good. Christ is the only avenue where the three dimensions of peace can be found.

Through and with Christ we can have peace between man and God; there is an inner peace that comes to the heart of God's child; and there is attainable peace between people, man and his neighbor. No wonder Jesus said, "My peace I give to you, not as the world gives!"

CONCLUSION

At the time Jesus offered these words of comfort to His disciples, they were about to face the chaos and anguish of His death. As we travel life's uncertain path, let us proceed onward knowing that Jesus is with us and prepared us for whatever is to come.

Time and time again in John 14, Jesus called His followers to keep His commandments and to obey Him (14:15, 20, 21, 23, 24, 31). Jesus never saw love and obedience as being different from each other. Instead, He said one's love for God is expressed in obedience to Him.

The peace that Christ has promised is thankfully open and available for every one that renders obedience to the will of God! John 14 can only, and does, end in triumph: "Arise, let us go from here." Let us follow the leading of the Master!