

Entering and Reigning In The Kingdom-Our Only Focus Part 10

What Is Jesus Talking About? The Parables

EW Bullinger-Figures of Speech Used In The Bible:

When we say that most of the errors which cause our unhappy divisions to-day, arise from either taking literally that which is Figurative, or from taking Figuratively that which is literal, the importance of this branch of study cannot be overrated.

And yet it is practically neglected.

Only a few writers, who may all be counted on one hand, have ever bestowed any attention to the subject. And yet it lies at the very root of all translation; and it is the key to true interpretation.

A Figure relates to form. When we speak of a person being "a Figure" we mean that he or she is dressed out of the usual or common fashion, as to colour or cut or material.

So, a Figure is a word used out of its ordinary sense; or put out of its usual order in a sentence; or it is a sentence thrown into a peculiar form, or expressing a thing in an unusual manner.

A Figure is a departure from the natural and fixed laws of grammar; a legitimate departure from law: not arising from ignorance or accident, but from design.

This departure is made with the set purpose of calling attention to what is said, in order to emphasize it.

A Figure may not be true to fact, but it is true to feeling, and truer to truth.

We may say "the ground needs rain": that is a plain, cold statement of fact. But if we say "the ground is thirsty," we at once use a Figure, not so true to fact, but truer to reality, and to feeling; full of warmth and life.

Hence we say "the crops suffer," "a hard heart," "an iron will." Or when we say "the kettle boils" we do not mean the kettle, literally, but the water; nor do we state a fact. What we mean is that the water in the kettle boils.

So when we say "the glass is rising" we mean the mercury, not the glass, or barometer.

When we say "light the fire" we do not mean this literally, for fire is already alight; but what we mean is, put it to what we call the firing.

Parables are a Figure of speech called – Simile-An explicate comparison usually employing "like" or "as".

"My love is like a red, red rose -- Robert Burns

"Her hair was like gravy, running brown off her head and clumping up on her shoulders."

A parable is "a heavenly truth set in an earthly context".

Mark 4: ¹³Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable?"

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Luke 8: ¹After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, **proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God**. The Twelve were with him, ²and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: ⁴While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, **he told this parable:**

¹⁰"He said The **knowledge of the secrets OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD** has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that, " 'though seeing, they may not see; though hearing, they may not understand."

Luke 9: ²and he sent them out **to preach the kingdom of God** and to heal the sick.

¹¹but the crowds learned about it and followed him. He welcomed them and **spoke to them about the kingdom of God**, and healed those who needed healing.

²⁷I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before **they see the kingdom of God.**"

⁶⁰Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and **proclaim the kingdom of God.**"

⁶²Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service **in the kingdom of God.**"

John 3: ¹⁹This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

Luke 13:18 (*The Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast*)

¹⁸Then Jesus asked, "What is the **kingdom of God LIKE?** What shall I **compare** it to?

²⁰Again he asked, "What shall I **compare the kingdom of God to?** ²¹**IT IS LIKE** (*what is like? THE KINGDOM of God!*) yeast.....

He said to them, ²⁴"Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to

²⁹People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast **in the kingdom of God.**

³¹At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, "Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you." ³²He replied, "Go tell that fox, 'I will drive out demons and heal people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.' ³³In any case, I must keep going today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem! ³⁴"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, **but you were not willing!** ³⁵Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'

Chapter 14: ⁷When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this **parable:**

¹⁴and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the **resurrection of the righteous.**"

¹⁵When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, "Blessed is the man who will eat at the feast **in the kingdom of God.**"

²⁴I tell you, not one of those men **who were invited** will get a taste of my banquet.' "

Luke 19: ¹¹While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem **and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once.** ¹²He said: "A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself **appointed king** and then to return. ¹³So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas.'Put this money to work,' he said, 'until I come back.'

²⁷But those enemies of mine **who did not want me to be king over them**—bring them here and kill them in front of me."

Mark 4: ¹³Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable?"