

The Parables of Jesus

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Gary M. Burge, Calvin Theological Seminary

A 15 Part Sermon Series

Encountering Christ

1. The Hidden Treasure and the Pearl of Great Price (Matthew 13:44 ff.)
2. The Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1-9; Mark 4:1-9; Luke 8:4-8; cf. 5:1-3)
3. The Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin. (Luke 15:1-10)
4. The Lost Son (Luke 15:11-32)
5. The Great Banquet (Luke 14:15-24)

Experiencing Grace

6. Simon the Pharisee, the Woman and the Two Debtors (Lk. 7:36-50.)
7. The Friend at Midnight (Luke 11:1-13)

8. The Unjust Judge and the Persistent Woman (Lk. 18:1-8)
9. The Rich Man and Lazarus (Lk. 16:19-31)

Expectations of Discipleship

10. The Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-14)
11. The King and his Servants (Matthew 18:21-35)
12. The Nobleman and his Servants (Luke 19:11-27)
13. The Laborers and the Vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16)
14. The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37)
15. The Sheep and the Goats (Matthew 25:31-46)

Preparation

When I have a new text, I think through a series of exegetical steps. (1) I master the text itself (ideally in Greek). (2) I reach for the best commentaries (Matthew: Keener, Wilkins, Hagner, Bruner; Mark: Lane, Guelich, LePeau; Luke: Bock, Marshall, Green). (3) I employ specialized works that focus on the cultural and rhetorical keys to the parable. These books are the least used by preachers and teachers. A brief bibliography of useful volumes:

Bailey, Kenneth E., *Finding the Lost: Cultural Keys to Luke 15* (Concordia 1989)

Bailey's scholarly treatment of Luke 15.

Bailey, Kenneth E., *Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes: Cultural Studies in the Gospels* (IVP, 2008)

A collection of studies on the culture of first century Judea and how this changes gospel stories.

Bailey, Kenneth E., *Poet and Peasant and Through Peasant Eyes. A Literary Cultural Approach to the Parables in Luke* (Eerdmans, 1976)

This is a combined printing of two books in one. Undoubtedly Bailey's most influential books.

Bailey, Kenneth E., *The Cross and the Prodigal: Luke 15 Through the Eyes of Middle Eastern Peasants, Revised and Expanded* (IVP, 2005)

A popular treatment of Luke 15. The book that changed how most of us preach the prodigal son. No doubt Bailey's most popular book.

Blomberg, Craig, *Interpreting the Parables* (IVP, 1990)

A scholarly evangelical treatment of the parables with application ideas and interpretative guidance.

Burge, Gary M., *Jesus the Middle Eastern Story Teller* (Zondervan, 2009)

Written chiefly for laity to show cultural insights to the parables.

Jeremias, Joachim, *The Parables of Jesus: Revised Edition* (SCM, 1972)

Perhaps the classic treatment of the 20th century. Enormous influence on Bailey's work.

Snodgrass, Klyne R., *Stories with Intent: A Comprehensive Guide to the Parables of Jesus, Revised* (Eerdmans, 2018)

This is a scholar's volume giving the research and bibliography on each parable.

Young, Brad, *Jesus and His Jewish Parables* (Paulist, 1989)

A thorough treatment of the parables emphasizing early Jewish cultural reflexes.