

11/10/24

Sermon – Parables and Themes

Scripture – See Below

Main Message – There are many themes in the Bible and here is a theme that binds them together, and helps us view these consistencies proving the Bible is the word of God!

Parable review. The parables are given for a number of reasons. We discussed them from time to time. Do you remember some reasons? So, when we read the Bible, we may not understand everything. In fact, it is certain that we will miss something. Well, when you read a passage, see if you can link it back to a parable. Obviously I can't do that for everything, but I'm going to take one of the more difficult ones and demonstrate the theme that is supported by the parable of the Workers in the Vineyard.

- **Jacob and Esau:** In Genesis, Esau is the firstborn of Isaac, but Jacob, the younger son, ends up receiving the birthright and blessing through God's providence (Genesis 25:23, 27:1-29). Jacob later becomes the father of the twelve tribes of Israel.
 - **Ephraim and Manasseh:** When Jacob blesses Joseph's two sons, he crosses his hands, giving the primary blessing to the younger Ephraim rather than the firstborn Manasseh (Genesis 48:13-20).
 - **David and His Brothers:** David is the youngest of Jesse's sons and isn't even initially considered by his father when the prophet Samuel comes to anoint the next king. Yet David is chosen and becomes one of Israel's greatest kings (1 Samuel 16:1-13).
 - **Gideon:** Gideon describes himself as the least in his family from the weakest clan, yet God calls him to lead Israel against the Midianites, emphasizing that God often uses the least likely people for great things (Judges 6:15-16).
 - **Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard:** In the New Testament, Jesus tells a parable about workers in a vineyard, where those hired last receive the same pay as those who worked all day, challenging conventional expectations of "fairness" and reiterating that "the last will be first, and the first will be last" (Matthew 20:1-16)
- parable of the Prodigal Son:** In this parable, the younger son receives forgiveness and celebration upon his return, while the elder son, who stayed with the father, struggles with feeling overlooked and undervalued (Luke 15:11-32).
- Jesus' Teachings:** Jesus repeatedly emphasizes humility and servitude, telling His disciples, "Whoever wants to be first must be the servant of all" (Mark 9:35). In the Beatitudes, He declares blessings on the poor, meek, and persecuted, further upending expectations of worldly success and greatness (Matthew 5:3-12).-
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In Exodus, Aaron's priestly robes had 12 stones on it to signify the twelve tribes of Israel. They had a particular order. The very first stone listed was the one that signified the house of Benjamin. He was the youngest of children of Israel/Jacob. Reuben was the oldest child – the first born. His stone was listed last. The first will be last. Exodus 28:16

This is a continuous theme in the Bible and adds that element of continuity throughout scripture. We may not understand all the details of the mysteries of the Bible but think of what that does. It is the handprint of God because it shows Him in every detail.