

A PARABLE IS A SHORT STORY IN WHICH THE FICTITIOUS IS USED TO REPRESENT AND ILLUSTRATE WHAT IS REAL.

The Purchased Possession 2

What is a Parable?

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PARABLE - G3850. ΠΑΡΑΒΟΛ PARABOLE⁷; GEN. PARABOLE⁷S, FEM. NOUN FROM PARABÁLLO⁷ (G3846), TO COMPARE. A PARABLE, PLACING SIDE BY SIDE. IN THE NT, A COMPARISON, SIMILITUDE.

(I) GENERALLY (MARK 4:30; HEB. 11:19). IN THE SENSE OF IMAGE, FIGURE, SYMBOL, EQUIVALENT TO ΤΥΠΟΣ (G5179), TYPE (HEB. 9:9, A SYMBOL OR TYPE OF SPIRITUAL THINGS IN CHRIST [CF. 9:11]).

(II) SPECIFICALLY, A PARABLE, I.E., A SHORT STORY UNDER WHICH SOMETHING ELSE IS FIGURED OR IN WHICH THE FICTITIOUS IS USED TO REPRESENT AND ILLUSTRATE THE REAL. THIS COMMON ORIENTAL METHOD OF TEACHING WAS MUCH USED BY CHRIST IN THE FIRST THREE GOSPELS, BUT NOT ELSEWHERE IN THE NT. (ZODHIATES, 1992)

HEBREWS 9

6 NOW WHEN THESE THINGS WERE THUS ORDAINED, THE PRIESTS WENT ALWAYS INTO -- THE FIRST TABERNACLE, ACCOMPLISHING THE SERVICE OF GOD.

7 BUT INTO THE SECOND WENT THE HIGH PRIEST ALONE ONCE EVERY YEAR, NOT WITHOUT BLOOD, WHICH HE OFFERED FOR HIMSELF, AND FOR THE ERRORS OF THE PEOPLE:

8 THE HOLY GHOST THIS SIGNIFYING, THAT THE WAY INTO THE HOLIEST OF ALL WAS NOT YET MADE MANIFEST, WHILE AS THE FIRST TABERNACLE WAS YET STANDING:

9 WHICH WAS A FIGURE (G3850 – PARABLE) FOR THE TIME THEN PRESENT, IN WHICH WERE OFFERED BOTH GIFTS AND SACRIFICES, THAT COULD NOT MAKE HIM THAT DID THE SERVICE PERFECT, AS PERTAINING TO THE CONSCIENCE;

10 WHICH STOOD ONLY IN MEATS AND DRINKS, AND DIVERS (G1313 – DIFFERENT) WASHINGS, AND CARNAL ORDINANCES, IMPOSED ON THEM UNTIL THE TIME OF REFORMATION.

JESUS' USE OF PARABLES

(MATT. 13:34, 35)

MARK 4

33 AND WITH MANY SUCH PARABLES (G3850 – PARABLE) SPOKE HE THE WORD UNTO THEM, AS THEY WERE ABLE TO HEAR IT.

NOT, WITH MANY WORDS SPOKE HE PARABLES. THE WORD OF GOD IS NOT THE PARABLE. THE PARABLE ILLUSTRATES THE WORD.

34 BUT WITHOUT A PARABLE (G3850 – PARABLE) SPOKE HE NOT UNTO THEM: AND WHEN THEY WERE ALONE, HE EXPOUNDED ALL THINGS TO HIS DISCIPLES.

MATTHEW 13

THE REASON FOR PARABLES

10 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speak 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.

12 For whosoever hath (ears to hear), *to him shall be given* (more understanding), *and he shall have more abundance* (of truth): *but whosoever hath not* (ears to hear), *from him shall be taken away even that he hath.* (Or seems to have)

13 *Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand* (consider).

14 *And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah, which said, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand* (consider); *and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:*

15 *For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand* (consider) *with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.*

16 *But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.*

17 *For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.*

More Parables

Luke 16

16 The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presses into it.

17 And (but) it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail (g4098 – To fall from a higher to a lower place).

18 Whosoever puts away his wife, and marries another, commits adultery: and whosoever marries her that is put away from her husband commits adultery.

Romans 7

1 Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he lives?

2 For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband.

3 So then if, while her husband lives, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.

4 Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

We cannot submit to Christ and to the law at the same time. It is spiritual adultery.

We are also dead to the law by the law.

Galatians 2

19 For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.

Even the law itself will not allow us to submit to two. We either follow Christ or we follow and submit to the law.

Hebrews 7

11 If -- therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchizedek, and not be called after the order of Aaron?

12 For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law.

13 For he of whom these things are spoken pertains to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar.

14 For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Judah; of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.

If Christ is to be our high priest we are no longer under the law. According to the law the tribe of Levi could only function as priests. Christ sprang out of the tribe of Judah!