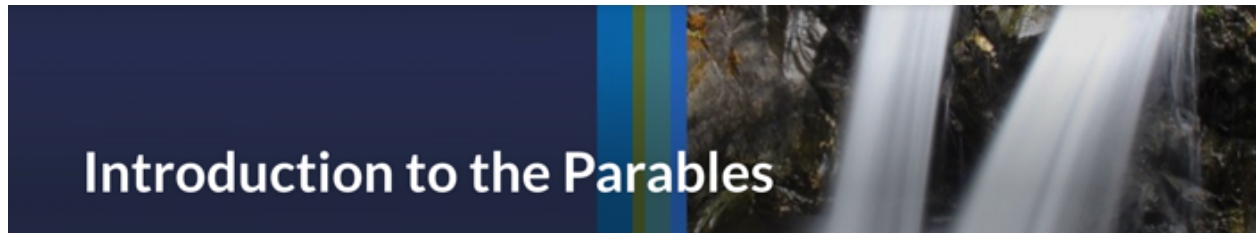


070816 Growth Group Study



Growth Group Page Only

1. Discussion around most recent sermon:

a. Date: 07/08/18

b. Series: Parables

c. Title: "Introduction to the Parables"

d. Text (scripture from today's sermon):

- Isaiah 6:9-10; Matthew 13:10-17; Mark 4:10-12; Luke 8:9-10

d. Preacher: Shawn Reese

f. Scripture Reading:

- Ephesians 1:3-14 (NIV):

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹ he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

g. Specific questions from today's sermon:

1. What is a parable?
2. Why does Jesus speak in parables?
3. Discuss with the group how parables spoken by Jesus work:
 - Usual
 - Unexpected
 - Unsettled
4. How has God blessed you with overflowing extravagance?
5. What parable have you encountered in your walk with Jesus?
6. What is your favorite parable and why?
7. Is there a parable you are puzzled by and why?

g. Reference Text/Books:

- Kenneth Bailey, *Jesus through Middle Eastern Eyes*
- Robert Capon, *Kingdom, Grace, Judgment: Paradox, Outrage, and Vindication in the Parables of Jesus*
- Malcolm Guite, *Parable and Paradox: Sonnets on the Sayings of Jesus and other Poems*
- Klyne Snodgrass, *Stories with Intent*
- David Wenham, *The Parables of Jesus*