

OCC Connections Bible Study (Group or Personal)

Parables Recap

Big Idea:

- Parables are simple and are to be understood as receiving and responding to the Word, valuing the Kingdom of God, being a good steward, exhibiting mercy and persevering in prayer, and living ready for the return of Christ.
- This study reviews the core bundles and prepares us to enter into our next sermon series on Revelation.

1) Read

Read a selection that represents each bundle and pray for understanding, growth, and obedience:

- **Seed and soil:** *Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23; Mark 4:26-29; Luke 8:11-15*
- **Treasure and pearl:** *Matthew 13:44-46*
- **Lamp and householder:** *Matthew 5:14-16; Mark 4:21-25; Luke 8:16-18; Matthew 13:52*
- **Shepherd and sheep:** *John 10:1-18; Luke 15:3-7*
- **Virgins and banquet:** *Matthew 25:1-13; Matthew 22:1-14; Luke 14:15-24*
- **Minas and talents:** *Luke 19:11-27; Matthew 25:14-30*
- **Wheat and weeds / net / sheep and goats:** *Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43; 13:47-50; 25:31-46*

2) Observe the text:

- What images repeat? (*seed, soil, lamp, banquet, shepherd, harvest, sorting*)

- Where do you see value and joyful surrender?
- What stewardship or accountability themes appear?
- How do mercy and justice show up?
- What promises or warnings point to final judgment?

3) See the Connections

- From the Seed comes growth until the harvest.
- What is hidden is revealed.
- God takes what is small and expands it
- God invites all to respond to Him; response leads to preparation and readiness.
- In seeking truth/treasure comes surrender/leaving behind everything for the sake of Christ.
- Steward (Life: Time, talent, treasure, and your testimony) what God has given to you for you will give an account to God.
- As God has given you grace, give grace to others.
- Parables help with our understanding of Revelation

4) Interpret (what it means)

- **From the seed to bearing fruit:** As we receive the seed of salvation, we are to grow and bear fruit.

- **Stewardship and cost:** God has given us so much. Let us steward all that God has given to us so we can give an account for how we steward. Let us also consider (count) the cost of following Christ.
- **Grace, compassion, and persevering prayer:** God is full of grace, compassion, love, truth, and justice. In the same way, we are to exhibit grace, compassion, and pray without ceasing.

5) Apply (how we live)

- **Receive & treasure:** prepare the soil; surrender lesser things [the former life]: (*James 1:21; Philippians 3:7-8*)
- **Steward & count the cost:** steward your mina; build upon the Rock (*1 Corinthians 4:2; Luke 14:28-33*)
- **Practice mercy & pray without quitting:** act on the six mercies; seek justice (*Matthew 25:35-40; Luke 18:1-8*)

6) Pray the Text

- **Praise:** for the seed of the Word and the Treasure of Christ

- **Confession:** Neglected stewardship, dimmed lamps, and withheld mercy. Let us change our minds (repentance/metanoia) and continue to grow in Christ.
- **Dependence:** on God for perseverance and the courage to shine in this dark and broken world.
- **Mission:** To go into the world and make disciples; to seek the lost and serve the least until He comes.

7) Life Stage Helps

- **Parents/Kids:** Plant a seed in a cup, read *Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23*, and pray for “**good soil**”; then pick one of the six mercies to do together this week (*Matthew 25:35-40*)
- **Couples/Roommates:** Do a **stewardship audit** (time, talent, treasure, testimony) and choose one hospitality step that reflects the banquet/virgins' readiness theme (*Luke 19:11-27; Matthew 25:1-13; Luke 14:15-24*)
- **Students/Young Adults:** Give up one thing that occupies your time to gain time with **Christ** (read *Matthew 13:44-46*) and serve one mercy on campus or online (*Matthew 25:35-40*)

- **New to Faith:** Read **one** parable from each bundle (seed/soil; treasure/pearl; lamp/householder; shepherd/sheep; virgins/banquet; talents/minas; final sorting). Write one-sentence response to Jesus for each; share one with a mature believer (*Matthew 13; John 10; Luke 15; Matthew 25; Luke 19*).
- **Singles/Widows/Seniors:** Read **John 10:1-18** (Good Shepherd) and **Luke 15:3-7** (the “one”). Call or visit one person who comes to mind. Pray and encourage them to follow the Shepherd’s voice this week.

Additional Notes or Questions: