

General Principles for Interpreting Parables

1. All Jesus' principles are in some way vehicles proclaiming the Kingdom of God.
2. Original meaning first; then, application in my life - - as with all the Scripture.
3. The occasion on which a parable is introduced may illustrate its meaning (Mt. 20:1ff).
4. The object of the parable may be expressly stated in the introduction (Luke 18:1).
5. Sometimes certain expressions at the end of a parable may also indicate its bearing (Matthew 13:49).
6. Usually there is one main point to a parable.
7. The best interpretation is usually the simplest.
8. Parables are not to be considered the first sources of Christian doctrine, but illustrations of it.
9. We cannot expect the whole of Christian truth to be stated in any one parable.