

# PARABLES OF JESUS CHRIST

## 1. THE PARABLE OF THE WEEDS

### Matthew 13:24-30

New International Version (NIV)

<sup>24</sup> Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. <sup>25</sup> But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. <sup>26</sup> When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

<sup>27</sup> “The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’

<sup>28</sup> “An enemy did this,’ he replied.

“The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’

<sup>29</sup> “No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them.<sup>30</sup> Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’”

## 2. THE PARABLES OF THE HIDDEN TREASURE AND THE PEARL

### Matthew 13:44

New International Version (NIV)

<sup>44</sup> “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

## 3. THE PARABLE OF THE PEARL

### Matthew 13:45-46

Good News Translation (GNT)

<sup>45</sup> “Also, the Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man is looking for fine pearls, <sup>46</sup> and when he finds one that is unusually fine, he goes and sells everything he has, and buys that pearl.

## 4. THE PARABLE OF THE NET

### Matthew 13:47-48

Good News Translation (GNT)

<sup>47</sup> “Also, the Kingdom of heaven is like this. Some fishermen throw their net out in the lake and catch all kinds of fish. <sup>48</sup> When the net is full, they pull it to shore and sit down to divide the fish: the good ones go into the buckets, the worthless ones are thrown away.

## 5. THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT

### Matthew 18:23-35

The Message (MSG)

<sup>23-25</sup> “The kingdom of God is like a king who decided to square accounts with his servants. As he got under way, one servant was brought before him who had run up a debt of a hundred thousand dollars. He couldn’t pay up, so the king ordered the man, along with his wife, children, and goods, to be auctioned off at the slave market.

<sup>26-27</sup> “The poor wretch threw himself at the king’s feet and begged, ‘Give me a chance and I’ll pay it all back.’ Touched by his plea, the king let him off, erasing the debt.

<sup>28</sup> “The servant was no sooner out of the room when he came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him ten dollars. He seized him by the throat and demanded, ‘Pay up. Now!’

<sup>29-31</sup> “The poor wretch threw himself down and begged, ‘Give me a chance and I’ll pay it all back.’ But he wouldn’t do it. He had him arrested and put in jail until the debt was paid. When the other servants saw this going on, they were outraged and brought a detailed report to the king.

<sup>32-35</sup> “The king summoned the man and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave your entire debt when you begged me for mercy. Shouldn’t you be compelled to be merciful to your fellow servant who asked for mercy?’ The king was furious and put the screws to the man until he paid back his entire debt. And that’s exactly what my Father in heaven is going to do to each one of you who doesn’t forgive unconditionally anyone who asks for mercy.”

## 6. A STORY ABOUT WORKERS

### Matthew 20:1-16

The Message (MSG)

**20** <sup>1-2</sup> “God’s kingdom is like an estate manager who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. They agreed on a wage of a dollar a day, and went to work.

<sup>3-5</sup> “Later, about nine o’clock, the manager saw some other men hanging around the town square unemployed. He told them to go to work in his vineyard and he would pay them a fair wage. They went.

<sup>5-6</sup> “He did the same thing at noon, and again at three o’clock. At five o’clock he went back and found still others standing around. He said, ‘Why are you standing around all day doing nothing?’

<sup>7</sup> “They said, ‘Because no one hired us.’

“He told them to go to work in his vineyard.

<sup>8</sup> “When the day’s work was over, the owner of the vineyard instructed his foreman, ‘Call the workers in and pay them their wages. Start with the last hired and go on to the first.’

<sup>9-12</sup> “Those hired at five o’clock came up and were each given a dollar. When those who were hired first saw that, they assumed they would get far more. But they got the same, each of them one dollar. Taking the dollar, they groused angrily to the manager, ‘These last workers put in only one easy hour, and you just made them equal to us, who slaved all day under a scorching sun.’

<sup>13-15</sup> “He replied to the one speaking for the rest, ‘Friend, I haven’t been unfair. We agreed on the wage of a dollar, didn’t we? So take it and go. I decided to give to the one who came last the same as you. Can’t I do what I want with my own money? Are you going to get stingy because I am generous?’

<sup>16</sup> “Here it is again, the Great Reversal: many of the first ending up last, and the last first.”

## 7. THE STORY OF TWO SONS

### Matthew 21:28-32

The Message (MSG)

<sup>28</sup> “Tell me what you think of this story: A man had two sons. He went up to the first and said, ‘Son, go out for the day and work in the vineyard.’

<sup>29</sup> “The son answered, ‘I don’t want to.’ Later on he thought better of it and went.

<sup>30</sup> “The father gave the same command to the second son. He answered, ‘Sure, glad to.’ But he never went.

<sup>31-32</sup> “Which of the two sons did what the father asked?”

They said, “The first.”

Jesus said, “Yes, and I tell you that crooks and whores are going to precede you into God’s kingdom. John came to you showing you the right road. You turned up your noses at him, but the crooks and whores believed him. Even when you saw their changed lives, you didn’t care enough to change and believe him.

## 8. THE STORY OF THE WEDDING BANQUET

### Matthew 22:1-14

The Message (MSG)

**22** <sup>1-3</sup> Jesus responded by telling still more stories. “God’s kingdom,” he said, “is like a king who threw a wedding banquet for his son. He sent out servants to call in all the invited guests. And they wouldn’t come!

<sup>4</sup> “He sent out another round of servants, instructing them to tell the guests, ‘Look, everything is on the table, the prime rib is ready for carving. Come to the feast!’

<sup>5-7</sup> “They only shrugged their shoulders and went off, one to weed his garden, another to work in his shop. The rest, with nothing better to do, beat up on the messengers and

then killed them. The king was outraged and sent his soldiers to destroy those thugs and level their city.

<sup>8-10</sup>“Then he told his servants, ‘We have a wedding banquet all prepared but no guests. The ones I invited weren’t up to it. Go out into the busiest intersections in town and invite anyone you find to the banquet.’ The servants went out on the streets and rounded up everyone they laid eyes on, good and bad, regardless. And so the banquet was on—every place filled.

<sup>11-13</sup>“When the king entered and looked over the scene, he spotted a man who wasn’t properly dressed. He said to him, ‘Friend, how dare you come in here looking like that!’ The man was speechless. Then the king told his servants, ‘Get him out of here—fast. Tie him up and ship him to hell. And make sure he doesn’t get back in.’

<sup>14</sup>“That’s what I mean when I say, ‘Many get invited; only a few make it.’”

## 9. THE STORY OF THE VIRGINS

### Matthew 25:1-13

The Message (MSG)

**25** <sup>1-5</sup>“God’s kingdom is like ten young virgins who took oil lamps and went out to greet the bridegroom. Five were silly and five were smart. The silly virgins took lamps, but no extra oil. The smart virgins took jars of oil to feed their lamps. The bridegroom didn’t show up when they expected him, and they all fell asleep.

<sup>6</sup>“In the middle of the night someone yelled out, ‘He’s here! The bride-groom’s here! Go out and greet him!’

<sup>7-8</sup>“The ten virgins got up and got their lamps ready. The silly virgins said to the smart ones, ‘Our lamps are going out; lend us some of your oil.’

<sup>9</sup>“They answered, ‘There might not be enough to go around; go buy your own.’

<sup>10</sup>“They did, but while they were out buying oil, the bridegroom arrived. When everyone who was there to greet him had gone into the wedding feast, the door was locked.

<sup>11</sup>“Much later, the other virgins, the silly ones, showed up and knocked on the door, saying, ‘Master, we’re here. Let us in.’

<sup>12</sup>“He answered, ‘Do I know you? I don’t think I know you.’

<sup>13</sup>“So stay alert. You have no idea when he might arrive.

## 10. THE STORY ABOUT INVESTMENT

### Matthew 25:14-30

The Message (MSG)

<sup>14-18</sup>“It’s also like a man going off on an extended trip. He called his servants together and delegated responsibilities. To one he gave five thousand dollars, to another two thousand, to a third one thousand, depending on their abilities. Then he left. Right off, the first servant went to work and doubled his master’s investment. The second did the same. But the man with the single thousand dug a hole and carefully buried his master’s money.

<sup>19-21</sup> “After a long absence, the master of those three servants came back and settled up with them. The one given five thousand dollars showed him how he had doubled his investment. His master commended him: ‘Good work! You did your job well. From now on be my partner.’

<sup>22-23</sup> “The servant with the two thousand showed how he also had doubled his master’s investment. His master commended him: ‘Good work! You did your job well. From now on be my partner.’

<sup>24-25</sup> “The servant given one thousand said, ‘Master, I know you have high standards and hate careless ways, that you demand the best and make no allowances for error. I was afraid I might disappoint you, so I found a good hiding place and secured your money. Here it is, safe and sound down to the last cent.’

<sup>26-27</sup> “The master was furious. ‘That’s a terrible way to live! It’s criminal to live cautiously like that! If you knew I was after the best, why did you do less than the least? The least you could have done would have been to invest the sum with the bankers, where at least I would have gotten a little interest.’

<sup>28-30</sup> “Take the thousand and give it to the one who risked the most. And get rid of this “play-it-safe” who won’t go out on a limb. Throw him out into utter darkness.’

## 11. THE SHEEP AND THE GOATS

### Matthew 25:31- 46

The Message (MSG)

<sup>31-33</sup> “When he finally arrives, blazing in beauty and all his angels with him, the Son of Man will take his place on his glorious throne. Then all the nations will be arranged before him and he will sort the people out, much as a shepherd sorts out sheep and goats, putting sheep to his right and goats to his left.

<sup>34-36</sup> “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Enter, you who are blessed by my Father! Take what’s coming to you in this kingdom. It’s been ready for you since the world’s foundation. And here’s why:

I was hungry and you fed me,  
I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,  
I was homeless and you gave me a room,  
I was shivering and you gave me clothes,  
I was sick and you stopped to visit,  
I was in prison and you came to me.’

<sup>37-40</sup> “Then those ‘sheep’ are going to say, ‘Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?’ Then the King will say, ‘I’m telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.’

<sup>41-43</sup> “Then he will turn to the ‘goats,’ the ones on his left, and say, ‘Get out, worthless goats! You’re good for nothing but the fires of hell. And why? Because—

I was hungry and you gave me no meal,  
I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,  
I was homeless and you gave me no bed,  
I was shivering and you gave me no clothes,  
Sick and in prison, and you never visited.'

<sup>44</sup>“Then those ‘goats’ are going to say, ‘Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or homeless or shivering or sick or in prison and didn’t help?’

<sup>45</sup>“He will answer them, ‘I’m telling the solemn truth: Whenever you failed to do one of these things to someone who was being overlooked or ignored, that was me—you failed to do it to me.’

<sup>46</sup>“Then those ‘goats’ will be herded to their eternal doom, but the ‘sheep’ to their eternal reward.”

*The Message (MSG)*

Copyright © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002 by [Eugene H. Peterson](#)

## 12. PARABLE OF THE GROWING SEED

### Mark 4:26-29

*New Living Translation (NLT)*

<sup>26</sup>Jesus also said, “The Kingdom of God is like a farmer who scatters seed on the ground. <sup>27</sup>Night and day, while he’s asleep or awake, the seed sprouts and grows, but he does not understand how it happens. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces the crops on its own. First a leaf blade pushes through, then the heads of wheat are formed, and finally the grain ripens. <sup>29</sup>And as soon as the grain is ready, the farmer comes and harvests it with a sickle, for the harvest time has come.”

## 13. THE WATCHFUL DOORKEEPER

### Mark 13:34-36

*New Living Translation (NLT)*

<sup>34</sup>“The coming of the Son of Man can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. When he left home, he gave each of his slaves instructions about the work they were to do, and he told the gatekeeper to watch for his return. <sup>35</sup>You, too, must keep watch! For you don’t know when the master of the household will return—in the evening, at midnight, before dawn, or at daybreak. <sup>36</sup>Don’t let him find you sleeping when he arrives without warning.

*New Living Translation (NLT)*

Holy Bible. New Living Translation copyright© 1996, 2004, 2007 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of [Tyndale House Publishers Inc.](#), Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

## 14. THE TWO DEBTORS

### Luke 7:41-50

New International Version (NIV)

<sup>41</sup>“Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii,<sup>[a]</sup> and the other fifty. <sup>42</sup>Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?”

<sup>43</sup>Simon replied, “I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven.”

“You have judged correctly,” Jesus said.

<sup>44</sup>Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. <sup>45</sup>You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. <sup>46</sup>You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet.<sup>47</sup>Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.”

<sup>48</sup>Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”

<sup>49</sup>The other guests began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?”

<sup>50</sup>Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

## 15. THE GOOD SAMARITAN

### Luke 10:30-37

New International Version (NIV)

<sup>30</sup>In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup>A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup>So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup>But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.<sup>34</sup>He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup>The next day he took out two denarii<sup>[a]</sup>and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

<sup>36</sup>“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

<sup>37</sup>The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

### Footnotes:

- a. [Luke 10:35](#) A denarius was the usual daily wage of a day laborer (see Matt. 20:2).

## 16. THE FRIEND AT MIDNIGHT

### Luke 11:5-8

New International Version (NIV)

<sup>5</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; <sup>6</sup>a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.’ <sup>7</sup>And suppose the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’ <sup>8</sup>I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity<sup>[a]</sup> he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.

### Footnotes:

- a. [Luke 11:8](#) Or *yet to preserve his good name*

## 17. THE RICH FOOL

### Luke 12:16-21

New International Version (NIV)

<sup>16</sup>And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest.<sup>17</sup>He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’

<sup>18</sup>“Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. <sup>19</sup>And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”’

<sup>20</sup>“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’

<sup>21</sup>“This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

## 18. WATCHFULNESS



### **Luke 12:35-40**

New International Version (NIV)

<sup>35</sup>“Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, <sup>36</sup>like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. <sup>37</sup>It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. <sup>38</sup>It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak. <sup>39</sup>But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup>You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

## **19. THE FAITHFUL AND WISE MANAGER**

### **Luke 12:42-48**

New International Version (NIV)

<sup>42</sup>The Lord answered, “Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? <sup>43</sup>It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns. <sup>44</sup>Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. <sup>45</sup>But suppose the servant says to himself, ‘My master is taking a long time in coming,’ and he then begins to beat the other servants, both men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk. <sup>46</sup>The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers.

<sup>47</sup>“The servant who knows the master’s will and does not get ready or does not do what the master wants will be beaten with many blows. <sup>48</sup>But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

## **20. THE BARREN FIG TREE**

### **Luke 13:6-9**

New International Version (NIV)

<sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’

<sup>8</sup>“‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’”

## 21. THE GREAT BANQUET

### Luke 14:16-24

New International Version (NIV)

<sup>16</sup>Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. <sup>17</sup>At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.'

<sup>18</sup>"But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.'

<sup>19</sup>"Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.'

<sup>20</sup>"Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'

<sup>21</sup>"The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.'

<sup>22</sup>"'Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.'

<sup>23</sup>"Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. <sup>24</sup>I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.'"

## 22. THE TOWER, THE WARRING KING

### Luke 14:28-33

New International Version (NIV)

<sup>28</sup>"Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? <sup>29</sup>For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, <sup>30</sup>saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.'

<sup>31</sup>"Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

## 23. THE PARABLE OF THE LOST COIN

### Luke 15:8-10

New International Version (NIV)

<sup>8</sup>"Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins<sup>[a]</sup> and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup>And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my

lost coin.’ <sup>10</sup>In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

## 24. THE PARABLE OF THE LOST SON

### Luke 15:11-32

*New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>11</sup>Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

<sup>13</sup>“Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. <sup>14</sup>After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup>He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup>“When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! <sup>18</sup>I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ <sup>20</sup>So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

<sup>21</sup>“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

<sup>22</sup>“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup>Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate.’ <sup>24</sup>For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup>“Meanwhile, **the older son** was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. <sup>27</sup>‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

<sup>28</sup>“The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup>But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

<sup>31</sup>“‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

*New International Version (NIV)*

*Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by [Biblica, Inc](http://www.biblica.com)*

## 25. THE UNRIGHTEOUS STEWARD

### Luke 16:1-8

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

**16** Now He was also saying to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and this *manager* was <sup>1</sup>reported to him as squandering his possessions. <sup>2</sup>And he called him and said to him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an accounting of your management, for you can no longer be manager.’ <sup>3</sup>The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do, since my <sup>1</sup>master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig; I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup>I know what I shall do, so that when I am removed from the management people will welcome me into their homes.’ <sup>5</sup>And he summoned each one of his <sup>1</sup>master’s debtors, and he *began* saying to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ <sup>6</sup>And he said, ‘A hundred <sup>1</sup>measures of oil.’ And he said to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.’ <sup>7</sup>Then he said to another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ And he said, ‘A hundred <sup>1</sup>measures of wheat.’ He <sup>\*</sup>said to him, ‘Take your bill, and write eighty.’ <sup>8</sup>And his <sup>1</sup>master praised the unrighteous manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the sons of this age are more shrewd in relation to their own <sup>1</sup>kind than the sons of light.

## 26. THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

### Luke 16:19-31

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>19</sup>“Now there was a rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, joyously living in splendor every day. <sup>20</sup>And a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, <sup>21</sup>and longing to be fed with the *crumbs* which were falling from the rich man’s table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores. <sup>22</sup>Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham’s bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup>In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and <sup>\*</sup>saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom. <sup>24</sup>And he cried out and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.’ <sup>25</sup>But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup>And <sup>1</sup>besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and *that* none may cross over from there to us.’ <sup>27</sup>And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, that you send him to my father’s house— <sup>28</sup>for I have five brothers—in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’ <sup>29</sup>But Abraham <sup>\*</sup>said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ <sup>30</sup>But he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!’ <sup>31</sup>But he said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.’”

## 27. THE FARMER AND HIS SERVANT

### Luke 17:7-10

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>7</sup>“Which of you, having a slave plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, ‘Come immediately and <sup>Ⓜ</sup>sit down to eat’? <sup>8</sup>But will he not say to him, ‘Prepare something for me to eat, and *properly* <sup>Ⓜ</sup>clothe yourself and serve me while I eat and drink; and <sup>Ⓜ</sup>afterward you<sup>Ⓜ</sup> may eat and drink’? <sup>9</sup>He does not thank the slave because he did the things which were commanded, does he? <sup>10</sup>So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, ‘We are unworthy slaves; we have done *only* that which we ought to have done.’”

## 28. PARABLES ON PRAYER

### Luke 18:1-8

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

**18** Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart, <sup>2</sup>saying, “In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man.<sup>3</sup> There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, ‘<sup>Ⓜ</sup>Give me legal protection from my opponent.’ <sup>4</sup>For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, ‘Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, <sup>5</sup>yet because this widow bothers me, I will <sup>Ⓜ</sup>give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will <sup>Ⓜ</sup>wear me out.’” <sup>6</sup>And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge <sup>\*</sup>said; <sup>7</sup>now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, <sup>Ⓜ</sup>and will He delay long over them? <sup>8</sup>I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find <sup>Ⓜ</sup>faith on the earth?”

## 29. THE PHARISEE AND THE PUBLICAN

### Luke 18:9-14

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>9</sup>And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: <sup>10</sup>“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’ <sup>13</sup>But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, ‘God, be<sup>Ⓜ</sup>merciful to me, the sinner!’ <sup>14</sup>I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

## 30. THE NOBLEMAN AND THE TEN POUNDS

### Luke 19:12-27

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>12</sup>So He said, "A nobleman went to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself, and *then* return. <sup>13</sup>And he called ten of his slaves, and gave them ten <sup>Ⓜ</sup>minas and said to them, 'Do business *with this* <sup>Ⓜ</sup>until I come *back*.' <sup>14</sup>But his citizens hated him and sent <sup>Ⓜ</sup>a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.' <sup>15</sup>When he returned, after receiving the kingdom, he ordered that these slaves, to whom he had given the money, be called to him so that he might know what business they had done. <sup>16</sup>The first appeared, saying, 'ⓂMaster, your <sup>Ⓜ</sup>mina has made ten minas more.' <sup>17</sup>And he said to him, 'Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, you are to be in authority over ten cities.' <sup>18</sup>The second came, saying, 'Your <sup>Ⓜ</sup>mina, Ⓜmaster, has made five minas.' <sup>19</sup>And he said to him also, 'And you are to be over five cities.' <sup>20</sup>Another came, saying, 'Master, here is your mina, which I kept put away in a handkerchief; <sup>21</sup>for I was afraid of you, because you are an exacting man; you take up what you did not lay down and reap what you did not sow.' <sup>22</sup>He \*said to him, 'ⓂBy your own words I will judge you, you worthless slave. Did you know that I am an exacting man, taking up what I did not lay down and reaping what I did not sow? <sup>23</sup>Then why did you not put my money in the bank, and having come, I would have collected it with interest?' <sup>24</sup>Then he said to the bystanders, 'Take the mina away from him and give it to the one who has the ten minas.' <sup>25</sup>And they said to him, 'Master, he has ten minas *already*.' <sup>26</sup>I tell you that to everyone who has, more shall be given, but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. <sup>27</sup>But these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slay them in my presence."

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by [The Lockman Foundation](#)

## 31. THE BREAD OF LIFE

### John 6:25-58

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicized Catholic Edition (NRSVACE)

<sup>25</sup>When they found him on the other side of the lake, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' <sup>26</sup>Jesus answered them, 'Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. <sup>27</sup>Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.' <sup>28</sup>Then they said to him, 'What must we do to perform the works of God?' <sup>29</sup>Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.' <sup>30</sup>So they said to him, 'What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?' <sup>31</sup>Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat." <sup>32</sup>Then Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell

you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup>For the bread of God is that which<sup>10</sup> comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.’<sup>34</sup>They said to him, ‘Sir, give us this bread always.’

<sup>35</sup>Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. <sup>36</sup>But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. <sup>37</sup>Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; <sup>38</sup>for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. <sup>39</sup>And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. <sup>40</sup>This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.’

<sup>41</sup>Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, ‘I am the bread that came down from heaven.’ <sup>42</sup>They were saying, ‘Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, “I have come down from heaven”?’ <sup>43</sup>Jesus answered them, ‘Do not complain among yourselves. <sup>44</sup>No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. <sup>45</sup>It is written in the prophets, “And they shall all be taught by God.” Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. <sup>46</sup>Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. <sup>47</sup>Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. <sup>48</sup>I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup>Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup>This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup>I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.’

<sup>52</sup>The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, ‘How can this man give us his flesh to eat?’<sup>53</sup>So Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. <sup>54</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; <sup>55</sup>for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.’

*New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised Catholic Edition (NRSVACE)*

## **32. JESUS THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

### **John 10:1-39**

*New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised Catholic Edition (NRSVACE)*

**10** ‘Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.<sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his

voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.’ <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup>So again Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

<sup>11</sup>‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes<sup>[a]</sup> it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.’

<sup>19</sup>Again the Jews were divided because of these words. <sup>20</sup>Many of them were saying, ‘He has a demon and is out of his mind. Why listen to him?’ <sup>21</sup>Others were saying, ‘These are not the words of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?’

### **Jesus Is Rejected by the Jews**

<sup>22</sup>At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup>and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. <sup>24</sup>So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, ‘How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah,<sup>[a]</sup> tell us plainly.’ <sup>25</sup>Jesus answered, ‘I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; <sup>26</sup>but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. <sup>27</sup>My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup>What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>30</sup>The Father and I are one.’

<sup>31</sup>The Jews took up stones again to stone him. <sup>32</sup>Jesus replied, ‘I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these are you going to stone me?’ <sup>33</sup>The Jews answered, ‘It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you, but for blasphemy, because you, though only a human being, are making yourself God.’ <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered, ‘Is it not written in your law,<sup>[a]</sup> “I said, you are gods”?’ <sup>35</sup>If those to whom the word of God came were called “gods”—and the scripture cannot be annulled— <sup>36</sup>can you say that the one whom the Father has sanctified and sent into the world is blaspheming because I said, “I am God’s Son”? <sup>37</sup>If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe



me. <sup>38</sup>But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand<sup>Ⓜ</sup> that the Father is in me and I am in the Father.’ <sup>39</sup>Then they tried to arrest him again, but he escaped from their hands.

*New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised Catholic Edition (NRSVACE)*

*New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicised Catholic Edition, copyright © 1989, 1993, 1995 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.*

### 33. JESUS THE TRUE VINE

#### John 15:1-27

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

**15** “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes<sup>Ⓜ</sup> to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed<sup>Ⓜ</sup> by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become<sup>Ⓜ</sup> my disciples. <sup>9</sup>As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants<sup>Ⓜ</sup> any longer, because the servant<sup>Ⓜ</sup> does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

#### The World’s Hatred

<sup>18</sup>“If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you. <sup>19</sup>If you belonged to the world,<sup>Ⓜ</sup> the world would love you as its own. Because you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world—therefore the world hates you. <sup>20</sup>Remember the word that I said to you, ‘Servants<sup>Ⓜ</sup> are not greater than their master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also. <sup>21</sup>But they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. <sup>22</sup>If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sinned; but now they have no excuse for their sin. <sup>23</sup>Whoever hates me hates my Father also. <sup>24</sup>If I had not done among them the works that no one else did,

they would not have sin. But now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. <sup>25</sup> It was to fulfill the word that is written in their law, 'They hated me without a cause.'

<sup>26</sup> "When the Advocate<sup>[1]</sup> comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. <sup>27</sup> You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

*New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)*

*New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.*

## 34. HOUSES ON ROCK AND ON SAND

### Luke 6:47-49

*New Century Version (NCV)*

<sup>47</sup> I will show you what everyone is like who comes to me and hears my words and obeys. <sup>48</sup> That person is like a man building a house who dug deep and laid the foundation on rock. When the floods came, the water tried to wash the house away, but it could not shake it, because the house was built well. <sup>49</sup> But the one who hears my words and does not obey is like a man who built his house on the ground without a foundation. When the floods came, the house quickly fell and was completely destroyed."

## 35. THE YEAST

### Luke 13:20-21

*New Century Version (NCV)*

<sup>20</sup> Jesus said again, "What can I compare God's kingdom with? <sup>21</sup> It is like yeast that a woman took and hid in a large tub of flour until it made all the dough rise."

## 36. THE LOST SHEEP

### Luke 15:4-7

*New Century Version (NCV)*

<sup>4</sup> "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep but loses one of them. Then he will leave the other ninety-nine sheep in the open field and go out and look for the lost sheep until he finds it. <sup>5</sup> And when he finds it, he happily puts it on his shoulders <sup>6</sup> and goes home. He calls to his friends and neighbors and says, 'Be happy with me because I found my lost sheep.' <sup>7</sup> In the same way, I tell you there is more joy in heaven over one sinner who changes his heart and life, than over ninety-nine good people who don't need to change.

*New Century Version (NCV)*

*The Holy Bible, New Century Version®. Copyright © 2005 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.*

## 37. LIGHT UNDER A BASKET

### Mark 4:21-23

New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>21</sup>Also He said to them, "Is a lamp brought to be put under a basket or under a bed? Is it not to be set on a lamp stand? <sup>22</sup>For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light. <sup>23</sup>If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear."

## 38. NEW CLOTH ON OLD GARMENT

### Mark 2:19-22

New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>19</sup>And Jesus said to them, "Can the friends of the bridegroom fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them they cannot fast. <sup>20</sup>But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days. <sup>21</sup>No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; or else the new piece pulls away from the old, and the tear is made worse. <sup>22</sup>And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine bursts the wineskins, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But new wine must be put into new wineskins."

## 39. THE SOWER

### Mark 4:3-8

New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup>"Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And it happened, as he sowed, *that* some *seed* fell by the wayside; and the birds of the air<sup>[a]</sup> came and devoured it. <sup>5</sup>Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away. <sup>7</sup>And some *seed* fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no crop. <sup>8</sup>But other *seed* fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."

## 40. THE PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED

### Mark 4:30-33

New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>30</sup> Then He said, “To what shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what parable shall we picture it? <sup>31</sup> *It is* like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup> but when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade.”

## 41. THE PARABLE OF THE WICKED VINEDRESSERS

### Mark 12:1-8

New King James Version (NKJV)

**12** Then He began to speak to them in parables: “A man planted a vineyard and set a hedge around *it*, dug a *place* for the wine vat and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. <sup>2</sup> Now at vintage-time he sent a servant to the vinedressers, that he might receive some of the fruit of the vineyard from the vinedressers. <sup>3</sup> And they took *him* and beat him and sent *him* away empty-handed. <sup>4</sup> Again he sent them another servant, and at him they threw stones, <sup>5</sup> wounded *him* in the head, and sent *him* away shamefully treated. <sup>6</sup> And again he sent another, and him they killed; and many others, beating some and killing some. <sup>7</sup> Therefore still having one son, his beloved, he also sent him to them last, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ <sup>8</sup> But those vinedressers said among themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ <sup>9</sup> So they took him and killed *him* and cast *him* out of the vineyard.

## 42. THE PARABLE OF THE FIG TREE

### LUKE 21:29-31

New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>29</sup> Then He spoke to them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. <sup>30</sup> When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. <sup>31</sup> So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near.

## 43. THE SPECK AND THE PLANK

### Matthew 7:1-5

New King James Version (NKJV)

**7** “Judge not, that you be not judged. <sup>2</sup> For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. <sup>3</sup> And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? <sup>4</sup> Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me remove the speck from your eye’; and look, a plank *is* in your own eye? <sup>5</sup> Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

*New King James Version (NKJV)*

*The Holy Bible, New King James Version Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.*

## 44. THE REJECTED STONE HAS BECOME THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE

**Mark 12:10-11**

J.B. Phillips New Testament (PHILLIPS)

**12** <sup>1a</sup> Then he began to talk to them in parables.

<sup>1b-11</sup> “A man once planted a vineyard,” he said, “fenced it round, dug out the hole for the wine-press and built a watch-tower. Then he let it out to some farm-workers and went abroad. At the end of the season he sent a servant to the tenants to receive his share of the vintage. But they got hold of him, knocked him about and sent him off empty-handed. The owner tried again. He sent another servant to them, but this one they knocked on the head and generally insulted. Once again he sent them another servant, but him they murdered. He sent many others and some they beat up and some they murdered. He had one man left—his own son who was very dear to him. He sent him last of all to the tenants, saying to himself, ‘They will surely respect my own son.’ But they said to each other, ‘This fellow is the future owner—come on, let’s kill him, and the property will be ours! So they got hold of him and murdered him, and threw his body out of the vineyard. What do you suppose the owner of the vineyard is going to do? He will come and destroy the men who were working his vineyard and will hand it over to others. Have you never read this scripture—‘The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief corner stone. This was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?’”

## 45. THE WEDDING-GUESTS

**Luke 5:33-35**

J.B. Phillips New Testament (PHILLIPS)

<sup>33</sup> Then people said to him, “Why is it that John’s disciples are always fasting and praying, just like the Pharisees’ disciples, but yours both eat and drink?”

<sup>34-35</sup> Jesus answered, “Can you expect wedding-guests to fast while they have the bridegroom with them? The day will come when they will lose the bridegroom; that will be the time for them to fast!”

## 46. THE CHILDREN SITTING IN THE MARKET-PLACE

**Luke 7:31-35**

J.B. Phillips New Testament (PHILLIPS)

<sup>31-35</sup> “What can I say that the men of this generation are like—what sort of men are they? They are like children sitting in the market-place and calling out to each other, ‘We played at weddings for you, but you wouldn’t dance, and we played at funerals for you,

and you wouldn't cry!' For John the Baptist came in the strictest austerity and you say he is crazy. Then the Son of Man came, enjoying life, and you say, 'Look, a drunkard and a glutton, a bosom-friend of the tax-collector and the outsider!' Ah, well, wisdom's reputation is entirely in the hands of her children!"

*J.B. Phillips New Testament (PHILLIPS)*

*J. B. Phillips, "The New Testament in Modern English", 1962 edition by HarperCollins*

## 47. OLD AND NEW TREASURES

### **Matthew 13:52**

*Amplified Bible (AMP)*

<sup>52</sup>He said to them, Therefore every <sup>Ⓜ</sup>teacher *and* interpreter of the Sacred Writings who has been instructed about *and* trained for the kingdom of heaven and has <sup>Ⓜ</sup>become a disciple is like a householder who brings forth out of his storehouse treasure that is new and [treasure that is] old [the fresh as well as the familiar].

## 48. SEVEN UNCLEAN SPIRITS

### **Luke 11:24-26**

*Amplified Bible (AMP)*

<sup>24</sup>When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it roams through waterless places in search [of a place] of rest (release, refreshment, ease); and finding none it says, I will go back to my house from which I came.

<sup>25</sup>And when it arrives, it finds [the place] swept *and* put in order and furnished *and* decorated.

<sup>26</sup>And it goes and brings other spirits, seven [of them], more evil than itself, and they enter in, settle down, *and* dwell there; and the last state of that person is worse than the first.

## 49. THE SHUT DOOR

### Luke 13:25-27

Amplified Bible (AMP)

<sup>25</sup> When once the Master of the house gets up and closes the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door [again and again], saying, Lord, open to us! He will answer you, I do not know where [<sup>26</sup>what household—certainly not Mine] you come from.

<sup>26</sup> Then you will begin to say, We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.

<sup>27</sup> But He will say, I tell you, I do not know where [<sup>26</sup>what household—certainly not Mine] you come from; depart from Me, all you wrongdoers!

## 50. PLACES OF HONOR

### Luke 14:7-11

Amplified Bible (AMP)

<sup>7</sup> Now He told a parable to those who were invited, [when] He noticed how they were selecting the places of honor, saying to them,

<sup>8</sup> When you are invited by anyone to a marriage feast, do not recline on the chief seat [in the place of honor], lest a more distinguished person than you has been invited by him,

<sup>9</sup> And he who invited both of you will come to you and say, Let this man have the place [you have taken]. Then, with humiliation *and* a guilty sense of impropriety, you will begin to take the lowest place.

<sup>10</sup>But when you are invited, go and recline in the lowest place, so that when your host comes in, he may say to you, Friend, go up higher! Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit [at table] with you.

<sup>11</sup>For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled (ranked below others who are honored or rewarded), and he who humbles himself (keeps a modest opinion of himself and behaves accordingly) will be exalted (elevated in rank).

*Amplified Bible (AMP)*

Copyright © 1954, 1958, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1987 by [The Lockman Foundation](#)

\*\*\*\*\*