

Jesus' Parables in Chronological Order

Parable #9 — Luke 12:42-48 — Faithful and Wise Servant

⁴² And the Lord replied, “A faithful, sensible servant is one to whom the master can give the responsibility of managing his other household servants and feeding them. ⁴³ If the master returns and finds that the servant has done a good job, there will be a reward. ⁴⁴ I tell you the truth, the master will put that servant in charge of all he owns. ⁴⁵ But what if the servant thinks, ‘My master won’t be back for a while,’ and he begins beating the other servants, partying, and getting drunk? ⁴⁶ The master will return unannounced and unexpected, and he will cut the servant in pieces and banish him with the unfaithful.

⁴⁷ “And a servant who knows what the master wants, but isn’t prepared and doesn’t carry out those instructions, will be severely punished. ⁴⁸ But someone who does not know, and then does something wrong, will be punished only lightly. When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required.

Parable #10 — Luke 13:6-9 — Unfruitful Fig Tree

⁶ Then Jesus told this story: “A man planted a fig tree in his garden and came again and again to see if there was any fruit on it, but he was always disappointed. ⁷ Finally, he said to his gardener, ‘I’ve waited three years, and there hasn’t been a single fig! Cut it down. It’s just taking up space in the garden.’

⁸ “The gardener answered, ‘Sir, give it one more chance. Leave it another year, and I’ll give it special attention and plenty of fertilizer. ⁹ If we get figs next year, fine. If not, then you can cut it down.’”

Parable #9 — Luke 12:42-48 — Faithful and Wise Servant

1. What would you do if you hired a house sitter/caretaker to watch your home and children, left for a week-long vacation, and then returned a day early to find your caretaker had neglected your kids, had a big party, and trashed your home?
2. What distinguishes the faithful and wise manager? (12:42-44)
3. How did Jesus say that an irresponsible servant might behave when left in charge of the household? (12:45) Why might a person behave in this way?
4. In view of Christ's second coming, what does this parable teach you about readiness? About stewardship? Judgement? Serving others? Witnessing?
5. The parable identifies four kinds of servant:
 - a) One who knows what he should do, and does the right thing.
 - b) One who knows what he should do, but does the wrong thing.
 - c) One who knows what he should do, but doesn't do anything.
 - d) One who does not know what he should do, and does the wrong thingWhat is the fate of each of them? Which one do you identify with?
6. Do you know your "master's will?" (12:47) Should you try to know it better or are you better off not knowing it so you will not be punished as severely? (12:48)
7. Over what has God give you stewardship (you, personally)? What do you think God wants you to do with it (be specific)? How would God evaluate the job you're doing? How can you improve the job you're doing?

Parable #10 — Luke 13:6-9 — Unfruitful Fig Tree

1. What is the context in which Jesus tells the parable of the barren fig tree?
2. In this parable, who are the characters represented by the fig tree, the owner, and the gardener? What do the figs (or fruit) represent?
3. Which is most surprising to you: that the owner wants to cut down the tree? Or that the gardener wants to give it another year?
4. What eventually happens? Is the tree cut down? Does the owner give it another year? If so, does it bear fruit?
5. What is the message of this parable?