



GENRE: Parable – Read like riddles.

6 PARABLE OBSERVATIONS

1. A parable uses everyday experiences to draw comparison with _____ kingdom _____ truths.

2. Parables were spoken to _____ 3 _____ groups

- 1. Crowds
- 2. Scribes and Pharisees
- 3. Disciples

3. Parables communicate kingdom of God principles and require kingdom of God _____ responses _____ .

4. Parables _____ Twist _____ your mind with the intent to Turn your heart/actions.

Twist – Jesus’ spin, or Twist, on the meaning of an everyday experience.
Turn – The change, or Turn, in behavior the Twist is designed to bring about in the audience.

- Parables demand the reader make a decision and do something different.
- Parables weren’t as difficult to understand as they were to obey.
- Pharisees understood them but their hard hearts prevented them from obeying.

5. The effect of the parable was determined by the heart of the hearer.

- The hardhearted were twisted but not turned, thus were offended.
- The spiritually hungry were twisted and turned, thus grew closer to God.
- Parables ‘called out’ the proud and ‘called up’ the humble.

6. Only acceptance of the kingdom of God and Jesus’ authority can unlock the power of the parables.

NOTES:

Read and discover what God communicated to the people *then*.

PARABLE READING RULES - Read Matthew 18:21-35

1. Describe the context of the parable: To whom is the parable being told and what situation caused it to be told. **Read Matthew 18:21-35**

Answer: *Jesus is telling the parable to His disciples.*

2. Describe the everyday illustration being used as the parable.

Answer: *A forgiven servant refusing to forgive others.*

3. Identify the ‘single’ kingdom of God principle being taught.

Read Matthew 18:31-35

Discover: We do not forgive others, but we expect to be forgiven.

Reflect: How is the quality of the forgiveness you extend to others different from what God has extended to you?

Respond: Develop a model of forgiveness based on God’s Word.

4. Identify the Turn, or change in behavior, being sought. Hint will be found in the closing line of the parable. **Read Matthew 18:31-35**

Discover: God wants us to extend to others the degree of forgiveness we ourselves are seeking from God.

Reflect: Is there someone you need to extend more forgiveness to?

Respond: Call that person and offer God-honoring forgiveness.

5. What change in your behavior is the parable challenging?

Is there a change in the level of forgiveness you need to give someone in your life? If yes, act on it.

Reflect, pray and determine what God communicating to us *now*.

PARABLES REFLECTING RULES

Write, in your own words, a 2-3 sentence prayer or revelation summarizing how the parable is challenging you to obey God.

Respond and do something. Pray and decide what God wants to do in and through you in the *future*.

For the next 7 days, read the daily devotionals for Twists and Turns, Book Five of *The Royal*.



"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood" 1 Peter 2:9-10

Using the guidelines below, here is a daily Bible text for you to READ, REFLECT and RESPOND.

MON – Luke 12:35-40

WED – Matthew 25:14-30

FRI – Matthew 20:1-16

TUE – Luke 16:1-13

THU – Mark 9:42-48

SAT – Matthew 13:44, 45, 47-52

SUN – Matthew 25:1-13



Read and discover what God communicated to the people at the time of the writing.

Read the text 2-3 times and identify either:

1. Describe the context of the parable: To whom is the parable being told and what situation caused it to be told?
2. Describe the everyday illustration being used as the parable.
3. Identify the 'single' kingdom of God principle being taught. He who is forgiven much, loves much.
4. Identify the Turn, or change in behavior, being sought. A hint will be found in the closing line of the parable.
5. What change in your behavior is the parable challenging? How can you better express your appreciation to God for His forgiveness in your life?



Reflect, pray and determine what is God communicating to us in the present.

Write, in your own words, a 2-3 sentence prayer or revelation summarizing how the parables have challenged you to obey God.



Respond and do something!

Do something by praying and deciding what God wants to do in and through you in the future. Identify the steps of faith you need to take in order to facilitate God's promises. What am I going to do to apply my faith to be more of who God wants me to be? Is there sin to repent of? Is there something you can praise God for? Is there someone you need to forgive, serve or speak to? How are you worshipping God in your life?

Further applications – Send a challenge to people in your acquaintance. Be bold in what the Lord is showing you as a step of faith. Use social media to spread the Word of God (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Blog, email, etc.).

Devotional necessities: A Bible, pen or pencil, notebook or journal, a quiet place, a regular time, a prayerful heart of faith

BOOK FIVE: TWISTS AND TURNS

TWISTS AND TURNS: PARABLES

{Short stories designed to twist your thinking and turn your actions}

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READING RULES – Read the text 2-3 times.

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