Parables of Jesus

**Multiple Choice** Write the letter of the correct answer in the blank.

1. In the parable about two men who went to the Temple to pray, the humble man was the ?
   a. Pharisee  b. publican  c. Samaritan
2. In the parable about two men who went to the Temple to pray, the proud man was the ?
   a. Pharisee  b. publican  c. Samaritan
3. In the parable about the good Samaritan, Jesus taught us who our ? is.
   a. enemy  b. friend  c. neighbor
4. In the parable about the sower, the different types of soil picture ?
   a. actions  b. hearts  c. the Word of God
5. In the parable about the sower, the seed stands for ?
   a. good works  b. our thoughts  c. the Word of God

**Short Answer** Read each question carefully, and write your answer in the blank.

1. What is a parable?
   an earthly story with a heavenly meaning

2. Why did Jesus use parables when He was teaching the people?
   He used them to help people understand the spiritual things if they had a heart to know God and His truth. Otherwise, if they did not, parables hid the truth from those who had no heart to know God and the things of God. It helped people understand how to obey God’s Word at home, work, and play.
3. In the parable of the two who owed money, neither man could repay his debt. One owed much more than the other. Both of their debts were **forgiven/cancelled**. Who did Jesus say would appreciate it more? **the one who owed more money**

4. When Jesus went to Simon’s house, who showed kindness to Jesus—Simon or the woman? **the woman**

5. What did Jesus do for the woman before she left? **forgave her sins**

6. What did Jesus say was the reason that this happened? **She had faith or trust in Jesus to save her.**

7. Look up Ephesians 2:8–9. Fill in the missing words. “For by grace are ye saved through **faith**; and that not of **yourselves**; it is the **gift** of God: not of **works**, lest any man should boast.”

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**Discussion/Application**

*Use these questions to prompt discussion about life applications from lessons.*

1. When Jesus was on the earth, He came in contact with all types of people. Among those were Pharisees. How would you describe the Pharisees? *See answer below.*

2. How did the Pharisees act when Jesus spent time with publicans? *Answers vary. They criticized Jesus; accused Him of being a friend to sinful people.*

3. Because Jesus wanted to show that God loves all people and rejoices over all who trust in Him, He told three parables about lost things. What three things did Jesus use to picture a person who has not asked Jesus to be his Savior? *sheep, coin, the prodigal son*

4. In all three parables, someone was looking for a lost item. In the parable of the lost sheep, who does the shepherd represent? *Jesus*

1. Answers vary. They pretended to know and love God but really did not; acted in ways to make people think they were good; often made up their own rules about God; thought doing good things would get them to heaven; did not even realize that they needed a Savior.
5. What do these parables teach us about God?

See answer below.

6. What things could you do now to help people hear about Jesus?

7. What was your favorite parable, and what did you learn from it?

Answers vary:

5. Answers vary. God loves all people and sent His Son to die for everyone. God wants all people to trust in Him. God rejoices when a sinner trusts in Him.

6. Answers vary. Share the gospel with a friend. Ask a friend to come to church with you. Pray for them. Pray for missionaries, pastors, Sunday school teachers, etc. who are teaching people about Jesus. Listen carefully in church so others around you are not distracted from the message.

Something to Think About

In the parable of the good Samaritan, the priest and the Levite passed by the man who needed help. The one who finally helped him was the Samaritan. The Samaritan did not receive a reward or words of praise for helping the man. He did it to show compassion. Jesus told the parable to answer the lawyer’s question, “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus wanted the lawyer to realize that he was a sinner who had not obeyed God’s law. Romans 3:23 says, “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” Jesus also answered the lawyer’s question by showing that a person’s neighbor is anyone who has a need.

Many times Christians help others by going to the mission field, providing food for those in need, or stopping to help someone with their yard work. These are wonderful things that can be done for others. We can help others in small ways that no one but the Lord sees. Have you given an offering to a missionary? Then you were helping others. Have you helped your brother or sister finish a difficult job without receiving recognition? Then you were obeying the Scripture’s command to love your neighbor as yourself. If you look for ways to help others, you will find them. There are times when you may be thanked or praised for your work. Sometimes though, it is fun to find ways to help others without them knowing. Either way, you honor God by thinking of others before yourself.
Make a list of things you can do at home, church, or school to help others. Then look for the opportunity to do it.

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Mark 12:30–31 says,

“And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.”