

**TEXT** Review Quarter Texts

**OBJECTIVE** The students will review the past twelve lessons and be able to explain how Christ's parables illustrate many vital points relating to salvation and spiritual growth.

**KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER** All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them. — Matthew 13:34

**KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH** All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world. — Matthew 13:34-35

# Quarter Review

## REFERENCE INFORMATION

The word *parable* comes from the Greek verb *paraballo*. *Para* means "beside," and *ballo* means "to cast." It is literally a comparison or an illustration of one subject by another.

Parables were used chiefly in the New Testament and by Jesus only. The Old Testament made mention of the word *parable* fifteen times, but it is translated from a different word than in the New Testament. Also the usage is somewhat different. For an example, see Numbers 23:7.

A parable and an allegory are somewhat similar, as both

have a lesson to teach. However, a parable does not depart from the natural order of things, and its meaning has to be searched out. An allegory can readily be understood as the contents are read. A fable also is used to teach moral values, but may use animals talking or other mythical ideas to bring out the lesson to be learned.

Jesus found the use of parables in His teachings to be very valuable. When the disciples asked why He taught in parables, He told them that it was given unto them to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven. But to those who loved darkness rather than light, the meanings of the parables were hidden. Matthew 13:10-15

## YOUR OPENER

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# Quarter Review

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— Matthew 13:34-35

Look back over the last twelve lessons we have studied. We have examined individual parables that have to do with different aspects of becoming a Christian and living a Christian life. In this lesson, we will review several of these illustrations showing Christ's plan for our salvation and the ways we can be a fruit-bearing Christian.

1. God's love for lost mankind was beautifully proved when He gave His only Son for our salvation. His concern for the sinner is illustrated by the parable of the lost sheep. To what length will the Lord go to restore one who has gone astray? See Luke 15:4.

2. What was the turning point in the life of the prodigal son (Luke 15:17)? Compare this to the first step a sinner must take in turning to the Lord.

3. When we truly realize our need for salvation, the next step should be to seek for the forgiveness promised by God. Define forgiveness, and then explain the direct relationship between one's love for the Lord, and the amount of forgiveness that one has received. See Luke 7:47.

## RESPONSES

1. Guide the students' discussion toward the thought that the Lord will go to any length to restore a lost soul. Be sure to point out that God will never violate a person's free will. God's love to lost mankind is evidenced in the mercy that He extends to sinners (John 3:16). Lead into the next question by asking the class what a sinner can expect when he comes to God with a repentant heart.

2. "When he came to himself . . ." was the turning point in his wayward life. Help the class see that realization of one's need is the first step toward salvation. Use this opportunity to discuss with the class what it takes to bring sinners to the realization of their need of God. Personal experiences might be solicited.

3. Establish a definition for *forgiveness*. Then help the class understand how, according to the parable of the Creditor and the Debtors, the one who has been forgiven much will love Christ with a greater love than the person who has been forgiven little. You may want to emphasize the importance of being forgiven. Everyone who has had his sins forgiven owes the Lord an inestimable amount of love and thanksgiving. Direct the discussion toward the next question by asking how a person gets to the place where he realizes his need of forgiveness.

## ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

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4. People who hear the Word of God, both before and after they are saved, seem to respond in different ways. How do the different types of soil spoken of in the parable of the sower relate to the response of a human heart (Luke 8:4-15)? In what way is the word "receptivity" a key to the explanation of this parable?

5. If we have received the Word of God in our hearts, there will be outward evidences of this. Explain the importance of bearing fruit, and list several kinds of spiritual fruit that the Lord is looking for in our lives.

6. God calls all Christians to serve Him, and willingness to work for Him is a part of the spiritual fruit He desires to see in our lives. What will be the final outcome of the people who persistently excuse themselves from the service of the Lord?

7. Prayer is a vital aspect of keeping close to the Lord in our daily lives. Praying in faith and believing are important, but Luke 11:8-9 brings out another key element in receiving an answer to one's prayers. What is it and why is it important?

8. The most important focus of our Christian life is anticipation of the Lord's return to earth, and making sure we are ready for this event. Using the words "uncertainty" and "certainty" as a basis, explain why it is so important to be ready and watching for Christ's second coming. See Luke 12:39-40.

4. Discuss with the class the different types of soil. Compare the types of soil to the various ways God's Word is received by different people. Stress the importance of cultivating a receptive attitude to the Word of God (even after being saved).

5. Allow students to give their explanations. Emphasize the point that Jesus made: There is a time where a person's failure to bear fruit is no longer tolerated by the Lord and separation follows. Use Matthew 7:20 to help the class understand that, both to God and man, they are known by their fruits. Reiterate the fruit of the Spirit.

6. Help the class to realize that excuses are unacceptable before God. If a person continues to excuse himself from His service, another person will assume that responsibility and ultimately receive the reward. Help the students realize that if a person does stray because of excuse-making, or for any other reason, the Lord will go to any length to restore that one in love.

7. Help the class discuss the importance of importuning (the act of coming with requests, persistently or repeatedly). Have the class turn to James 5:16 and read, ". . . The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." Discuss with the class the meaning of the words *effectual*, "to produce the desired effect," and *fervent*, "intensely devoted or earnest."

8. Lead the class in a discussion about the uncertainty of the hour, but the certainty of Christ's second coming. Discuss the necessity of being ready to meet Jesus in the hour when we "think not." Ask the class what a Christian should be doing while he is watching and waiting for Christ's return.

## YOUR WRAP-UP

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## SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

What is a parable?

How does God speak to us today? Does He sometimes speak to us in parables?

Why did Jesus speak in parables?

Relate a specific thing that happened which opened your spiritual eyes and caused a deeper understanding and growth.

Of the twelve parables and applications taught in this quarter, which ones did you feel particularly applied to you or were a help to you? Why?

Which of the twelve parables were addressed mainly to sinners? Which were addressed to Christians?

What is the difference between a parable and some other account or story Jesus told?

Can the same principle be used today in teaching?

## THINGS TO DO

Bring a miscellaneous assortment of articles to class, such as a clock, shoe, rubber band, or pocket knife. Allow each student to select one and, either in a circle response or briefly written summary, outline a short parable using that object.

For a review or departmental project, ask students to pantomime or present a freeze sculpture portraying the different parables studied. Have the audience identify each parable as it is portrayed.

Prepare a Hidden-Words puzzle for your group. Choose key words from all the lessons taught during this past quarter and write them on a grid. Fill in the blank spaces with random letters. Type, in alphabetical order, the list

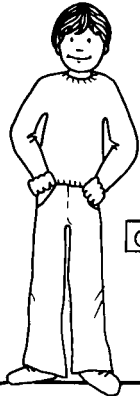
of words you chose. Give a copy of the word list and the puzzle to each student. Allow a certain amount of time for them to find the words in the puzzle. Also, next to each of the words have them write the different parables which they represent.

Plan a mini-quiz asking your students to identify the parable by key words or phrases taken from the twelve accounts studied.

## Answers for ANSWER

### Why Parables?

Christ spoke in parables so that people who heard Him could understand Him better. The acrostic below is about parables. Look up the verses and fill in the missing words. Then fit those words into the puzzle. They are not in order so be sure you spell the words correctly.



S	H	E	E	P																
S	T	E	W	A	R	D	S	H	I	P										
			F	R	U	I	T													
			W	A	T	C	H	I	N	G										
				D	E	B	T	O	R	S										
				C	O	N	T	I	N	U	A	L	C	O	M	I	N	G		
												E	X	C	U	S	E			
												S	O	W	E	R				

"Give an account of thy stewardship" (Luke 16:2)

"There was a certain creditor which had two debtors..." (Luke 7:41)

"For I have found my sheep which was lost" (Luke 8:5)

"A sower went out to sow his seed" (Luke 8:5)

"I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me" (Luke 18:5)











"Blessed are those servants, whom the Lord when he cometh shall find watching..." (Luke 12:37)

"And if it bear fruit, well" (Luke 13:9)

"And they all with one consent began to make excuses..." (Luke 14:18)

# Answers for Quarter Review Pages in *The Answer*

Color in the "Thumbs Up" if the following statements are correct. Color in the "Thumbs Down" if they are false:

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 The creditor had two debtors who owed him different amounts.
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 The one knocking did not receive even though he kept on knocking.
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 The parable about the choice of rooms at a wedding feast illustrated the importance of humility.
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 The shepherd rejoiced over finding the one sheep that was lost.
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 When a servant came to the owner of the vineyard, he was beaten.

Draw a line between the parable in the column on the left and the key word of that parable in the column on the right.

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|-------------------|--------------|
| Two Debtors       | Receptivity  |
| Sower and Seed    | Excuses      |
| Fig Tree          | Repentance   |
| Great Supper      | Rejection    |
| Prodigal Son      | Forgiveness  |
| Wicked Husbandmen | Fruitfulness |

Complete the following sentences.

Blessed are those servants whom the Lord finds watching when He returns.

It is impossible for a man to serve two masters.

The seed that fell on stony ground withered away.

The man who planted a vineyard looked for fruit for three years on his fig tree.

One man who was invited to the great supper said he had bought a piece of ground; another said he had bought oxen.

Read the following summary. Then fill in the blanks by unscrambling the words after each line.

The Pharisees (shaPreies) and scribes complained because Jesus ate with sinners. So He told them the parable of a man who had a hundred (dherund) sheep. When he discovered that one was lost, he went into the wilderness (dersnwise) to look for it. When he found it, he laid it on his shoulders (huldsoers) and carried it home. Then he called his friends and neighbors (bsnorgehi) and told them to rejoice (cijeroe) with him because the lost sheep was found (dofun).

# Answers for Extra Activity Pages in *the Answer*

## Activity Page 41

### Missing Words

Fill in the missing words of the key verses below. Find the correct words in the box and write them on the blank lines. See how many you can do without looking up the text in your Bible.

Christ	David	fruit	multitude	proud	return
Come	faint	hear	own	ready	shepherd
cometh	faithful	humble	parable	receive	stewards
cut	forgave	life	pray	received	words

- "All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them." — Matthew 13:34
- "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." — Luke 2:11
- "Therefore be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." — Matthew 24:44
- "All my words that I shall speak unto thee receive in thine heart, and hear with thine ears." — Ezekiel 3:10
- "And if it bear fruit, well; and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down." — Luke 13:9
- "But he, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity." — Psalm 78:38
- "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep." — John 10:11
- "He came unto his own, and his own received him not." — John 1:11
- "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." — 1 Corinthians 4:2
- "Men ought always to pray, and not to faint." — Luke 18:1
- "Come; for all things are now ready." — Luke 14:17
- "God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble." — James 4:6
- "Come, and let us return unto the LORD." — Hosea 6:1

## Activity Page 42

### Who Did It?

Jesus traveled to many places in the Holy Land and told many parables. Read the questions below and fill in the answers. They are about the parables you have been studying this quarter. If you have read all the Bible texts this should be simple.

Who planted? ? Sower

Who lost a ? Shepherd

Who was born in a ? Jesus

Who fed the ? Prodigal Son

Who came to the ? Poor, Maimed, Halt, & Blind

## Activity Page 43

### Find Your Favorites

On the bookmarks below, write the names of your favorite parables from Luke and where they can be found. Cut out the bookmarks and place them in the correct places in your Bible. You might want to cover them with a clear, adhesive-backed paper so they will last longer.

	Luke	
	Luke	
	Luke	
	Luke	