



Faith Matters

Simple reflections on our faith

by Marilyn Bergeron

What are Parables?

Parables are the short stories about everyday events that Jesus uses to help us discover the hidden meanings as we grow in our faith.

Some would say there is only one meaning. However, the nature of parables is such that as we ponder them, we find more layers.

Great artists use layers and layers of different coloured paints to create a beautiful image that touches our soul - each in a different way.

The deeper we dig to into these stories, the more they reveal to us different ways of understanding who God is and how much He loves us.

Years ago, I read the book, The Prodigal Son. The first time, I heard the message that God really was a forgiving God. The second time, the message was that I judged people quickly and needed to stop that. The third time, I understood that I was to be like the Father in reaching out with love and forgiveness in every situation.

We know the story of the Good Samaritan in defining who is our neighbour. Recently, I came upon a deeper interpretation. Jesus was describing himself. He's not put off by our situation. He tends to our injuries, our mistakes. He brings us to refuge in Him, and He provides for our future needs. Wow!

When we understand this great love for us, we can better allow Jesus to see our wounds and heal us.

There are deep truths in the parables waiting to be discovered. Spend time with:

- The Parable of The Lost Sheep
- The Woman at the well
- The Labourers in the Vineyard

There are so many to choose from. It's worth the effort to really ponder them one by one. It's exciting to find a new meaning in a Bible passage we've read many times.

When I reflect on them, I find myself saying: Thank you God for all the ways you help me persist in humble, trusting faith.

The Woman at the Well

John 4:4-42

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."



The Water of Life Discourse between Jesus and the Samaritan Woman at the Well by Angelika Kauffmann, 17th–18th century

The Labourers in the Vineyard

Matthew 20:1–16

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard."



Painting of the parable by Rembrandt, showing the workers being paid that evening (1637)

The Lost Sheep

Matthew 18:12–14

Luke 15:3–7

"Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it?"



"The nature of parables is such that as we ponder them, we find more layers."