

# Live Lent

## Sheet 2

### Action of Week One

### Read a synoptic Gospel

What is a gospel, a synoptic gospel and why isn't John one?

- Gospel simply means 'good news'. There were many gospels written but the four in the New Testament are Canon – in other words they are the four recognised by the church as the most reliable
- Synoptic means 'seeing together' and the gospels are similar in so far as they tell the story of Jesus and his life and work and relate the parables
- John is very different and is more about the relationship of Jesus and God and doesn't have the parables. Additionally Jesus' work is over three years and not one

Why did Jesus use the parables to tell the story of God?

- a simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson, as told by Jesus in the Gospels
- An earthly story with a heavenly meaning.
- To fulfil prophecy: 1,000 years before Jesus came, the Psalmist Asaph predicted He would preach in parables (Ps. 78:1-3). Jesus fulfilled every prophecy about His life, ministry, death, burial, and resurrection.
- To reveal truth: Parables open our eyes to deeper insights into Christ and His kingdom and give us a greater glimpse into the spiritual realm.
- To conceal truth: Parables have a unique way of withdrawing the light from those who love darkness. They have an element of mystery, forcing the listener to meditate on them to fully fathom their meaning. The casual listener is left baffled, hearing the superficial story but failing to grasp the underlying truths conveyed.
- To illustrate truth: Parables provide examples of how truth applies to everyday life. When a lawyer asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbour?" He responded with the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Lk. 10:29-36). In it, Jesus redefined the term neighbour as any person of any race who is in need, not just a person who lives nearby, and He showed how true neighbours treat others.
- To make truth relevant and practical: Around 25% of the Bible is comprised of precepts, laws, and raw truths. The other 75% consists of stories of real people. He brought complex, spiritual truth down to their level by using terms they could easily relate to. He spoke their lingo when He compared God's kingdom to farming, fishing, cooking, shepherding, and agriculture.
- To captivate people's attention: Jesus avoided dry, dull sermons on the nuances of the law. Instead, He told interesting stories that captured people's attention and imagination. Jesus conveyed His message in a way that fascinated His followers and confounded His critics.
- To enable His audience to retain His message: It's much easier to remember a story than facts and data. Jesus spoke volumes with few words.
- To expose His enemies' wrong motives. Jesus told the Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican (Luke. 18:9-14) to confront the self-righteous and to prove a repentant heart is better than a religious show.
- (Taken from [8 reasons Jesus preached in parables | Daily Mountain Eagle](#) by Ben Godwin)

How did you get on with the work of last week?

Which gospel did you choose and why?

Anyone want to share their thoughts, feelings etc?

What is loss?

St Anthony!!

*O Holy St. Anthony gentlest of Saints, your love for God and charity for His creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Encouraged by this thought, I implore you to obtain for me (request). O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms. The gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. Amen.*