

parables

SETH RUPE



Hello everyone! My name is Seth Rupe. Welcome to my 5-week Parable Sermon Series.

This booklet consists of 5 weeks' worth of material, including 5 QR codes that will take you to my video sermons on YouTube, starting at the beginning of each week.



This Booklet was created for my senior project and will be available digitally and physically to anyone and everyone who wants to join me on this journey. This book will cover key topics of forgiveness, love, sacrifice, and discipleship. These key beliefs are what strengthen believers and help us grow closer to God through reading his scriptures. If you have any questions about this booklet or myself, feel free to reach me at 1seth.rupe@gmail.com. I would love to hear from you!

Week 1- Introduction



SERMON NOTES:

Week 1- Introduction

Matthew 1:18-25 NLT

The Birth Of Jesus The Messiah

18 This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. 19 Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.

20 As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. 21 And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

22 All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet:

23 "Look! The virgin will conceive a child!
She will give birth to a son,
and they will call him Immanuel,
which means 'God is with us.'"

24 When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. 25 But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.

Who do you think Jesus is? Describe him in your own words.

Romans 10:5-13 NLT

5 For Moses writes that the law's way of making a person right with God requires obedience to all of its commands.

6 But faith's way of getting right with God says, "Don't say in your heart, 'Who will go up to heaven?' (to bring Christ down to earth). 7 And don't say, 'Who will go down to the place of the dead?' (to bring Christ back to life again)." 8 In fact, it says,

"The message is very close at hand;
it is on your lips and in your heart."

And that message is the very message about faith that we preach: 9 If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. 11 As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced." 12 Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. 13 For "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Jesus has given you the free gift of salvation by dying on the cross for you and your sins, without this we will all be lost and hopeless. Take some time to write down a thank you prayer to Jesus for what he has done for you

Week 1- Introduction

10 His disciples came and asked him,
“Why do you use parables when you talk to the people?”

11 He replied, “You are permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven, but others are not. 12 To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given, and they will have an abundance of knowledge. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them. 13 That is why I use these parables,

For they look, but they don’t really see.
They hear, but they don’t really listen or understand..

Jesus used parables to teach deeper lessons about the Kingdom of Heaven, Find a parable not covered in this booklet in either Matthew Mark or Luke and write notes about it to find the deeper meaning in it.

Philippians 3:8 CEV

8 Nothing is as wonderful as knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have given up everything else and count it all as garbage. All I want is Christ

Here Paul tells us exactly what Jesus tries to get us to understand through the Parables, and it's the truth that what Jesus has is enough and better than everything else in the world. In what ways are you choosing to follow what the world says is better than what God has?

Week 1- Introduction

John 15:1-8 NLT

“I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn’t produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. 3 You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. 4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.

5 “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. 6 Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. 7 But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! 8 When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

In this scripture Jesus tells us how as Christians we are called to produce fruit, looking at Galatians 5:22-23 we see a list of the fruits of the spirit. Which of these fruits are you producing through your life and your actions? Which fruits can you work on producing more of?

Ephesians 2:10 NKJV

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Timothy 1:7 NKJV

7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Our identity as Christians is in Christ Jesus, how should we as followers of Jesus live?

Week 2 - The Parable of the Sower



SERMON NOTES:

Week 2 - The Parable of the Sower

Matthew 13: 3-9 NLT

3 He told many stories in the form of parables, such as this one:

“Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seeds. 4 As he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate them. 5 Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. 6 But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn’t have deep roots, they died. 7 Other seeds fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants. 8 Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted! 9 Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”

In the story, Jesus implies that his teaching is like seeds. What do you think Jesus expects to happen in response to his teaching?

In this Parable Jesus uses a story about a farmer who scattered seeds to give us different ways we can visualise the state of faith in our lives. Have you found yourself in any of these soils? Where do you find yourself now?

Week 2- The Parable of the Sower

1 John 2:15-1 NLT

Do Not Love This World

15 Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. 16 For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. 17 And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.

What lies do the world tell us? What does Jesus say about these lies?

1 John 1:9 NIV

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Jesus tells us that when we come to him he will heal us and allow us to grow with him, What are ways in your life where you can start removing some of the weeds and thorns that are in your life?

Week 2 - The Parable of the Sower

In times of despair and great need the Lord calls us to draw closer to him through prayer and spending time with him in scripture.

Isaiah 33:6 NIV

6 He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge;
the fear of the Lord is the key to this treasure.

Find verses in the Bible that can help you come back to Jesus and strengthen the foundation of your faith in him.

Week 3 - The Unforgiving Debtor



SERMON NOTES:

Week 3 – The Unforgiving Debtor

Matthew 18:21–35 NLT

21 Then Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?” 22 “No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven!

23 “Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. 24 In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars.

25 He couldn’t pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt.

26 “But the man fell down before his master and begged him, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.’ 27 Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.

28 “But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment.

29 “His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it,’ he pleaded. 30 But his creditor wouldn’t wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full.

31 “When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. 32 Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. 33 Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’ 34 Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt.

35 “That’s what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart.”

In this story we are introduced to The King, who represents God for us, He forgives a great debt for the servant and the important lesson of forgiveness. How have you shown forgiveness to those around you? In what ways have you failed in this and not extended grace to someone else?

Matthew 6:14–15 ESV

14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

The recurring theme in the story and throughout verses found in the bible is that “We must forgive because we were first forgiven”. We are all sinners and we are all promised the certainty of eternal separation from God if we refuse to accept the free gift of forgiveness Jesus has offered each and every one of us by dying on the cross for our sins. Take a moment to thank Jesus for this gift as well as the other things in your life which he has graciously given to you.

Week 3 - The Unforgiving Debtor

Romans 8:1 ESV

1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

We have learned about the ideas of forgiving others around us, but God also calls us to forgive ourselves. Why do you think that this is important? What ways have you struggled in forgiving yourself?

Psalms 51:4 NLT

Romans 3:23 NLT

23 For everyone has
sinned; we all fall short of
God's glorious standard.

4 Against you, and you alone, have I
sinned;
I have done what is evil in your sight.
You will be proved right in what you
say,
and your judgment against me is just.

Forgiving yourself ultimately comes from understanding God's forgiveness. The Bible is clear that every human has sinned against God, and that all our wrongdoing is against God. Thus, the essential thing we need is God's forgiveness, which is available to us through Jesus Christ. All who put their faith in Jesus are fully forgiven of their sins. While this might be simple to understand in concept, forgiving yourself can be difficult in practice. We regret our bad decisions, and we are remorseful over the ways they have hurt ourselves and others. The enemy continues to accuse us and remind us of our sins. We must continually seek Jesus and ask for forgiveness while also extending forgiveness to others, this is a simple command given by God but takes time, dedication, and strength to complete. Luckily for us, We have God's strength. Take a moment to pray today for forgiveness and throughout your week look for opportunities to forgive others around you.

Week 3 - The Unforgiving Debtor

Ephesians 4:31-32 ESV

31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Why do you think it can be so hard to forgive others?

What are the benefits of forgiving? What are the consequences of refusing to forgive?

Luke 23:33-43 NKJV

33 And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. 34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."

And they divided His garments and cast lots. 35 And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God."

36 The soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him sour wine, 37 and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself."

38 And an inscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew:
THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

39 Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us."

40 But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." 42 Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

43 And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

Jesus was mocked, disgraced, and beaten to an inch of his life on the cross where he eventually died. Through all this he never once sinned, never once said anything bad about anyone or did anything wrong. In fact, he FORGAVE his prosecutors and prayed for them. This is how we should be towards one another. Pray and ask God to give you the strength to forgive those around you.

Week 4 - The Prodigal Son



SERMON NOTES:

Week 4 – The Prodigal Son

Luke 15:11–32 NLT

11 To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: “A man had two sons. 12 The younger son told his father, ‘I want my share of your estate now before you die.’ So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons.

13 “A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living. 14 About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. 15 He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. 16 The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything.

17 “When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, ‘At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! 18 I will go home to my father and say, “Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, 19 and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.”’

20 “So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. 21 His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.’

22 “But his father said to the servants, ‘Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. 23 And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, 24 for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.’ So the party began.

25 “Meanwhile, the older son was in the fields working. When he returned home, he heard music and dancing in the house, 26 and he asked one of the servants what was going on. 27 ‘Your brother is back,’ he was told, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf. We are celebrating because of his safe return.’

28 “The older brother was angry and wouldn’t go in. His father came out and begged him, 29 but he replied, ‘All these years I’ve slaved for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to. And in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends. 30 Yet when this son of yours comes back after squandering your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the fattened calf!’

31 “His father said to him, ‘Look, dear son, you have always stayed by me, and everything I have is yours. 32 We had to celebrate this happy day. For your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found!’”

In life the devil tries to make sin look better than what Jesus has for you and a lot of the time this is very convincing. How does sin promise enjoyment but bring enslavement? How does obedience to God’s will bring true freedom?

Week 4 - The Prodigal Son

Psalm 51: 1-19 NIV

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. 5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. 6 Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place. 7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. 8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. 9 Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. 10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you. 14 Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. 15 Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise. 16 You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. 17 My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise. 18 May it please you to prosper Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem. 19 Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous, in burnt offerings offered whole; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

In this story we read scripture written by King David after he was confronted by the prophet Nathan for taking Bathsheba as his wife and murdering her husband in war. We read his anguish and heartfelt response to God showing true repentance that comes from the influence of the Holy Spirit.

When the son though he was too far gone he remembered that he could go back to his father, upon doing this the son was brought to repentance. How is true repentance different than regret or remorse?

*What do you seek apart from the Lord to fulfill your needs and desires?
How can you repent of these tendencies?*

Week 4 - The Prodigal Son

Luke 15:1-7 NIV

1 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. 2 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

3 Then Jesus told them this parable: 4 “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? 5 And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders 6 and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ 7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

How does knowing that God seeks and saves lost sinners give you comfort and confidence in Him?

Ephesians 2:8-10 NASB

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

How does God’s grace free you to serve the Lord without fear of failure or rejection?

Like the older brother we tend to show unforgiveness towards others when we feel wronged or mistreated. Ask yourself if you are harboring any unforgiveness in your heart towards anyone? What steps do you need to take to forgive this person?

Week 5 - Salt and Light



SERMON NOTES:

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Week 5 – Salt and Light

Matthew 5:13-16 NLT

13 “You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.

14 “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. 15 No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

The passage clearly states that the difference between the Christian and the world must be preserved; therefore, any choice on our part that blurs the distinction between us and the rest of the world is a step in the wrong direction. In what aspects of your life is it hard to see the distinction between the world and God?

The world again and again tries to convince us that it is better, list some of the lies that it uses?

Week 5 – Salt and Light

Ephesians 5:8 ESV

8 for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

When we become aware and concerned to the distinction we must have as christians many times we can accidentally build up walls to preserve our christianity in a unhealthy way. We become so fearful of that which is different, of that which doesn't have a "Christian" label on it, or of that which isn't securely within our "Christian" neighborhoods and behind our "Christian" walls. How do you make a difference with the people around you who you dont consider "Christians"?

Daniel 12:3 ESV

3 And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

As the followers of Jesus, we are to be the light of the world. So, we must not fear "the dark." It is imperative for us to tear down the walls, to cross the barriers and to be present and active in our neighborhoods and cities. Having been washed clean once and for all by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we have no need to fear being "contaminated" by the so-called "uncleanness" of our world. This doesn't give us a free pass to just hop straight into worldly things, especially if they were our past sin struggles. Instead we are called to shine light to these places and draw those who are in the dark into light. Take time to pray and ask God to give you the strength to shine your light in places where it needs it the most.

Week 5 – Salt and Light

Ephesians 5:1-2 ESV

1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

To be the light of the world is not to condemn, withdraw or shy away from the world, but to actively pursue the dark places, to willingly enter into places of pain, poverty, injustice, sickness, violence and sin. We do this in imitation of Christ in order to bring the light, love, justice and peace of God to those people and places where it is needed the most. As followers of Jesus, this is our mission. Is there any specific action that God is putting on your heart in response to the passage?

Put simply, we are to hear the words of Jesus and put them into practice. We are to imitate Jesus, such that when we hear his words and put them into practice, people will see our good deeds and give glory to our Father in heaven. Pray and ask God to help you keep your salt salty and your light shine.

