

## **THE PARABLES OF JESUS (NTEN5323)**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

New Testament Department, Biblical Studies Division

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MAY WORKSHOP, 2018

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### **NOBTS MISSION STATEMENT:**

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

### **COURSE PURPOSE, CORE VALUE FOCUS, AND CURRICULUM COMPETENCIES:**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. These values shape both the context and manner in which all curricula are taught, with “doctrinal integrity” and “academic excellence” especially highlighted in this course. The seminary is emphasizing the core value of academic excellence this year and encourages all at the seminary to focus especially on this emphasis.

NOBTS has seven basic competencies guiding our Masters degree programs: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual & Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. This course addresses the “Biblical Exposition” competency by helping the student learn to interpret the Bible accurately.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This study will include a detailed analysis of the text of selected parables of Christ as found in the Synoptic Gospels. The literary genre of parable will be studied, recent studies in the area will be reviewed, the backgrounds for understanding the parables will be examined, and the Synoptic parables will be interpreted.

### **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

The objectives of this course include the following:

1. Students should understand the state of research related to the parables of Jesus
2. Students should gain an increased appreciation for the relevance of the exegetical study of the parables
3. Students should acquire the ability to apply their understanding of the context and text of the parables to a sound interpretation of the text

### **COURSE TEACHING METHODS:**

This course will be taught via a combination of pedagogical methods, including but not limited to the following: lectures, student assignments, on-line resources, book reviews, and student presentations. Both inductive and deductive approaches to learning will be utilized.

### **TEXTBOOKS:**

1. A modern translation of the Bible or students can use *The Greek New Testament*, UBS 5th ed., or the Nestle-Aland 28th ed.
2. Kenneth Bailey, *Poet and Peasant* and *Through Peasants' Eyes*
3. Craig Blomberg, *Interpreting the Parables*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition

## REQUIREMENTS IN THE COURSE:

1. Complete the assigned readings according to the schedule. Questions on the readings from the textbooks may be included on the exams. (10%)
2. Write a book review on each of the two textbooks. The reviews should include the following: 1) A bibliographic entry for the book; 2) A statement of having read the book; 3) a paragraph about the author of the book; 4) a two-paragraph summary of the book's content and approach; and 5) your reaction to the book about its value for understanding the parables. One of the reviews is due via hard copy at the beginning of the workshop and the other is due on Monday, June 4, 10 pm, submitted via email to the professor. The total length should be 2-4 pages per book, double-spaced. 20% per book review = 40% total
3. Each student will select a parable and prepare a rewrite of it in a modern setting, seeking to be faithful to the original "punch" and focus of the parable. The rewrite will be presented in class on the date when that parable is covered (see the schedule below). Assignments will be made on the first day of the class. (10%)
4. Each student will prepare an exegetical paper on one of the parables or a topic that applies to several parables. The paper topic must be approved by the professor ahead of time. The paper should be a formal research paper about 15 to 20 pages double-spaced in length and Turabian on form and style. The due date for this paper is Monday, June 18, 10 pm. (40%)

## COURSE EVALUATION:

Participation	10%	Book Reviews	40% (20% each)
Rewrite	10%	Exegetical Paper	40%

## CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Monday, May 21, 1-3:30 pm:

Introduction to the course, Intro. to the Parables	
The Sower and the Seed	Mk. 4:1-23
Children in the Market	Mt. 11:16-19
The Wheat and the Tares	Mt. 13:24-30, 36-43

Monday, May 21, 3:30-6 pm:

The Two Sons	Mt. 21:28-32
The Midnight Visitor	Lk. 11:5-8
The Persistent Widow	Lk. 18:1-8
A Publican and a Pharisee	Lk. 18:9-15

Tuesday, May 22, 9-11:50 am:

A Lost Sheep, A Lost Coin, A Lost Son	Lk. 15:1-32
The Unfaithful Steward	Lk. 16:1-13
The Rich Man and Lazarus	Lk. 16:14-31

Tuesday, May 22, 1-5 pm:

The Rich Fool	Lk. 12:16-21
The Faithful Servant	Lk. 12:42-48, Mt. 24:44-51
The Banquet Guests	Mt. 22:1-14

Tuesday, May 22, 1-5 pm: (\*continued from prior page)

The Good Samaritan	Lk. 10:30-35
The Ten Virgins	Mt. 25:1-13
The Talents	Mt. 25:14-30; Lk.19:12-27

Wednesday, May 23, 9-11:50 am:

Two Debtors, A Master	Lk. 7:41-43,
The Wicked Tenants	Mk. 12:1-12
Workers in the Vineyard	Mt. 20:1-16
The Great Banquet	Lk. 14:15-24,
Pearls, Treasure & Leaven	Mt.13:33,44-47
The Theology of the Parables	

#### REWRITES:

The Wheat and the Tares	The Rich Man and Lazarus	The Ten Virgins
The Two Sons	The Banquet Guests	The Talents
Who Has a Friend	The Persistent Widow	The Wicked Tenants
A Publican and a Pharisee	The Good Samaritan	Workers in the Vineyard
The Prodigal Son	The Faithful Servant	The Great Banquet
The Rich Fool	Two Debtors,	Pearl of Great Price

#### **SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Bailey, *A Poet and a Peasant*  
Bailey, *Through Peasants' Eyes*  
Blomberg, *Interpreting the Parables*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.  
Dodd, *The Parables of the Kingdom*  
Hultgren, *The Parables of Jesus*  
Jeremias, *The Parables of Jesus*  
McArthur and Johnston, *They Also Taught in Parables*  
Scott, *Hear then the Parable*  
Snodgrass, *Stories with Intent: A Comprehensive Guide to the Parables of Jesus*

#### Biblical Backgrounds Books:

Lohse, *The New Testament Environment*  
Hengel, *Judaism and Hellenism: Studies in Their Encounter in Palestine during the Early Hellenistic Period* (in 1 vol., formerly 2 vol.)  
Jeremias, *Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus*  
Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: NT*  
Matthews, *Manners and Customs in the Bible*  
Theissen, *Sociology of Early Palestinian Christianity*  
Meeks, *The First Urban Christians*  
Meeks, *The Moral World of the First Christians*  
Sanders, *Jesus and Judaism*  
Stambaugh and Balch, *The New Testament in Its Social Environment*  
Wilkens, *The Christians as the Romans Saw Them*  
Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary on the NT