

## **BSCM4355-01 PARABLES OF JESUS**

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### **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.

### **Core Values**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary highlights five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. While all five core values are emphasized, the primary focus for the 2015-2016 academic year is *spiritual vitality*. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the lens of spiritual vitality. Throughout this course students will be encouraged to consider how the core value of “spiritual vitality” impacts their development as Christian counselors being called to operate in the local church.

### **Course Description**

The purpose of this course is to introduce the students to Jesus’ teachings in parables. After an examination of introductory matters, the class time will be devoted to the interpretation of selected parables as they are found in the New Testament. This interpretation will include an examination of the use of the parables in the gospels, the life situation of the parables, an exegesis of the text, and the application of the parables for today.

### **Student Objectives**

By the end of the class, the student will:

1. Understand the synoptic problem and its relationship to the interpretation of the parables.
2. Understand the use of parables in the New Testament.
3. Be able to interpret the parables according to their context and life situation.
4. Be challenged to apply the truths from the parables to their own lives.

### **Textbooks**

The following textbooks are required:

Blomberg, Craig L. *Interpreting the Parables*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 1990.

Stein, Robert H. *An Introduction to the Parables of Jesus*. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1981.

The following textbooks are optional:

Blomberg, Craig L. *Matthew*. New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1992.

Brooks, James A. *Mark*. New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1991.

Malina, Bruce J. and Richard L. Rohrbaugh. *Social-Science Commentary on the Synoptic Gospels*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1992.

Stein, Robert H. *Luke*. New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1992.

### **Attendance**

The student will attend and participate in the class sessions. The class will adhere to the attendance policy stated in the catalogue.

### **Course Requirements**

1. The student is required to read the assigned material **before** coming to class. For each parable studied, the student must read the section in Stein and Blomberg dealing with the parable. Students should take pertinent notes from the texts for the notebook. The reading log attached to the syllabus must be completed and turned in the last day of class to demonstrate the completion of this assignment.
2. Each student will prepare a modern day parable based upon one of the following parables: Weather Signs (Lk. 12:54-56), Parable of the Talents (Matt. 25:14-30), Mustard Seed (Mk. 4:30-32). The student should be careful to be faithful to the original purpose and focus of the parable. This assignment will be due at the beginning of class on **April 13th**.
3. Each student will write a parable brief concerning one of the following parables: Marriage Feast or Lost Sheep. The brief will contain an explanation of the context of the parable as found in the gospels, pertinent information concerning the situation in life, an exegesis of the parable, and the main point of the teaching as well as secondary points. The brief is due on **April 27<sup>th</sup>**. A five point late penalty will be assessed for every day late.
4. Each student will find a journal article about one of the parables to be discussed in class and write an article summary. The summary should be one page single spaced and should include a brief summary, strengths, and weaknesses of the article. The article review is due at the beginning of class Wednesday **April 27<sup>th</sup>**
4. The student will turn in class notes to be checked for completeness. The

notebook should contain notes from the texts and class and is to be turned in on the last day of class. The notebook will be returned to the student on the same day.

5. Each student will complete a take home final exam to be turned in by May 15th .

The final grade for the course will be determined as follows:

- 10% Class participation
- 10% Modern day parable
- 10% Class notebook
- 15% Journal article review
- 15% Take Home Exam
- 20% Reading log
- 20% Parable brief

### Course Assignments

March 30

Introduction to the course  
Synoptic problem  
Introductions to the Gospels

Stein, pp. 1-72; Blomberg, pp. 1-69 (must be read by the end of the first week)

Introduction to the Parables  
The Good Samaritan  
Parable of the Soils  
Lamp Under a Bushel  
Parable of the Measure

Lk. 10:25-37  
Mk. 4:1-9, 13-20  
Mk. 4:21-23  
Mk. 4:24-25

Stein, pp. 72-81

The Great Supper  
Wedding Feast and Fasting  
Patch and Wineskins  
Mustard Seed  
Leaven

Lk. 14:15-24  
Mk. 2:18-20  
Mk. 2:21-22  
Mk. 4:30-32  
Mt. 13:33

Stein, pp. 82-97

Weather Signs  
Divided House  
Hidden Treasure and the Pearl  
Unjust Steward

Lk. 12:54-56  
Mk. 3:22-27  
Mt. 13:44-46  
Lk. 16:1-18

Stein, pp. 98-114

April 13<sup>th</sup>

Marriage Feast  
Gracious Father  
Gracious Employer  
Stein, pp. 115-129

Mt. 22:1-14  
Lk. 15:11-32  
Mt. 20:1-16

Wheat and the Tares  
The Great Net  
Sheep and Goats  
Lost Sheep  
Lost Coin  
Stein, pp. 130-147

Mt. 13:24-30; 36-43  
Mt. 13:47-50  
Mt. 25:31-46  
Luke 15:4-10

The Two Debtors  
The Two Sons  
Faithful and Unfaithful Servants  
Ten Virgins

Lk. 7:41-50  
Mt. 21:28-32  
Mt. 24:45-51  
Mt. 25:1-13

April 27<sup>th</sup>

Rich Man and Lazarus  
Children in the Marketplace  
Talents and Pounds  
Unforgiving Servant

Lk. 16:19-31  
Mt. 11:16-19  
Mt. 25:14-30  
Mt. 18:21-35

Evil Tenants  
Pharisee and Publican  
Rich Fool  
Friend at Midnight

Mk. 12:1-12  
Lk. 18:9-14  
Lk. 12:13-21  
Lk. 11:5-13

May 11<sup>th</sup>

Theology of the Parables  
Blomberg, pp. 289-323

## Reading Log

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

*Please put the date you completed the reading assignments.*

| <b>Class Date</b><br>(Read material for parables assigned for that date)                                                                                                           | <b>Stein</b> | <b>Blomberg</b> | <b>Indicate in the space below the date read</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                    | 1-72         | 1-69            |                                                  |
| The Good Samaritan      Lk. 10:25-37<br>Parable of the Soils      Mk. 4:1-9, 13-20<br>Lamp Under a Bushel      Mk. 4:21-23<br>Parable of the Measure      Mk. 4:24-25              | 72-81        |                 |                                                  |
| The Great Supper      Lk. 14:15-24<br>Wedding Feast and Fasting      Mk. 2:18-20<br>Patch and Wineskins      Mk. 2:21-22<br>Mustard Seed      Mk. 4:30-32<br>Leaven      Mt. 13:33 | 82-97        |                 |                                                  |
| Weather Signs      Lk. 12:54-56<br>Divided House      Mk. 3:22-27<br>Hidden Treasure and the Pearl<br>Mt. 13:44-46                                                                 | 98-129       |                 |                                                  |

|                                  |                     |        |         |  |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|--------|---------|--|
| Unjust Steward                   | Lk. 16:1-18         |        |         |  |
| Wheat and the Tares              | Mt. 13:24-30; 36-43 | 130-47 |         |  |
| The Great Net                    | Mt. 13:47-50        |        |         |  |
| Sheep and Goats                  | Mt. 25:31-46        |        |         |  |
| Lost Sheep                       | Luke 15:4-10        |        |         |  |
| The Two Debtors                  | Lk. 7:41-50         |        |         |  |
| The Two Sons                     | Mt. 21:28-32        |        |         |  |
| Faithful and Unfaithful Servants |                     |        |         |  |
|                                  | Mt. 24:45-51        |        |         |  |
| Ten Virgins                      | Mt. 25:1-13         |        |         |  |
| Rich Man and Lazarus             |                     |        |         |  |
|                                  | Lk. 16:19-31        |        |         |  |
| Children in the Marketplace      |                     |        |         |  |
|                                  | Mt. 11:16-19        |        |         |  |
| Talents and Pounds               | Mt. 25:14-30        |        |         |  |
| Unforgiving Servant              | Mt. 18:21-35        |        |         |  |
| Evil Tenants                     | Mk. 12:1-12         |        |         |  |
| Pharisee and Publican            | Lk. 18:9-14         |        |         |  |
| Rich Fool                        | Lk. 12:13-21        |        |         |  |
| Friend at Midnight               | Lk. 11:5-13         |        |         |  |
| Theology of the Parables         |                     |        | 289-323 |  |

## Selected Bibliography

Black, David Alan, and David R. Beck, eds. *Rethinking the Synoptic Problem*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2001.

Blomberg, Craig L. *Interpreting the Parables*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 1990.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Matthew*. New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1992.

Brooks, James A. *Mark*. New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1991.

Dungan, David L. *A History of the Synoptic Problem: The Canon, the Text, the Composition and the Interpretation of the Gospels*. New York: Doubleday, 1999.

Jeremias, Joachim. *The Parables of Jesus*. 2d rev. ed. Trans. S. H. Hooke. New York: Scribner, 1972.

Kistemaker, Simon J. *The Parables of Jesus*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1983.

Malina, Bruce J. and Richard L. Rohrbaugh. *Social-Science Commentary on the Synoptic Gospels*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1992.

Scott, Bernard Brandon. *Hear then the Parable: a Commentary on the Parables of Jesus*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1989.

Stein, Robert H. *An Introduction to the Parables of Jesus*. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1981.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Luke*. New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1992.

Wenham, David. *The Parables of Jesus*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1989.

For other suggested resources see the professor.