

Discovery

MARCH 2011



Parables

Stories • Puzzles • Jokes • Readers' Response • serial and more...



I love stories, do you? The best stories are the ones that leave you thinking... they either ask a question of you, or tell you a truth. A parable is a word-picture which uses an image or story to illustrate a truth or lesson. Jesus used them a lot to talk about the kingdom of God. I think He did it to help us understand and remember. What's your favourite parable?

Read a parable today and don't forget to pray!

Wendy

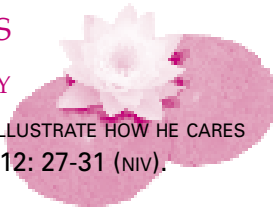
CONSIDER THE LILIES

BY CAROL DUFFY

JESUS TOLD A 'MINI-PARABLE' ABOUT WILDFLOWERS TO ILLUSTRATE HOW HE CARES FOR US. IN THE GRID BELOW ARE 31 WORDS FROM LUKE 12: 27-31 (NIV).

HOW MANY CAN YOU FIND?

R	E	H	T	A	F	I	E	L	D	E	R	I	F	C
E	Q	C	L	O	T	H	E	S	S	R	G	A	U	K
D	D	A	T	E	M	I	W	O	S	E	I	L	I	L
I	Y	R	R	O	W	O	L	G	T	T	A	N	A	R
S	P	L	E	N	D	O	R	R	H	G	G	B	K	L
N	W	U	C	S	M	A	A	R	R	D	O	K	E	R
O	P	O	Z	O	S	E	Y	W	O	R	L	D	E	E
C	H	C	N	S	H	E	X	M	W	W	K	T	S	I
J	O	H	W	K	C	V	D	O	N	A	G	A	P	W
R	Z	R	B	C	U	I	R	R	A	E	W	E	I	X
Z	L	A	K	E	M	G	X	E	I	J	J	Z	N	P



info@biblediscovery.org.nz
www.biblediscovery.org.nz

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Seeds

A 'parable' is a short story that uses familiar everyday events to explain a right behaviour that pleases God. Jesus told many parables when he was teaching people because we all remember stories. I like to call them 'earthly' stories with 'heavenly' meanings. They help us to know what God wants.

In Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23, Jesus tells a simple story about a farmer who sows seed a field.

The farmer scattered his seed in his field. As he scattered the seeds, some fell on the roadside. The birds swooped down and ate it.

Other seeds fell on the stony gravel. It sprouted quickly but because there wasn't much soil the roots couldn't grow. When the sun rose, the plants withered up and died.

Then there were the seeds that fell amongst weeds, but the weeds took hold and strangled the small plants as they grew.

However, all the seed that fell on the good soil grew strong and healthy. These plants produced a bumper crop and the farmer was very happy with what he had produced.

Then Jesus went on to explain what this story really meant. The farmer is like Jesus. When anyone hears about Jesus and doesn't want to learn more, they are like the seeds planted on the road. Satan comes along and plucks the learning of

Jesus out of their heart and they quickly forget about him.

The seed planted in stony gravel is like people who are really happy when they hear about Jesus, but their happiness is like a warm fuzzy feeling. As soon as difficulties come along, they ditch Jesus and go back to their old life.

Seed growing up in the weeds are like people who hear about Jesus and his good news but they worry and always want more of everything. They don't put into action what Jesus teaches in the Bible.

However, the seed growing in the good soil is like the person who hears about Jesus, makes a decision to follow him and grow to be like him. They love Jesus and spread the good news of his salvation to others.

Which seed are you?





Let It Shine



It was Amy's first time at her new school's adventure camp. Yesterday had been horrible, and she knew today would be even worse. Mum had told her to be positive, join in and make the most of it, but she was finding it so hard to make friends and be the bubbly, friendly girl she was at her last school!

Lining up at the mess hall, waiting to get her breakfast, she noticed a girl her age, at the other end of the hall with her head down, repetitively stirring her cereal around and around. "I hope she's alright", thought Amy.. "maybe she's new like me.." She grabbed her fruit and cereal, took a deep breath, headed down to the end of the hall, and approached the girl. "Hi", she said sheepishly, "is anyone sitting here?" "No" replied the girl, not even making eye-contact. Amy fidgeted, quickly thinking what she could say to break the ice. "So... how's it going?" "Fine", said the girl, again not even making eye-contact. "That's good," said Amy, and just as she said that two older girls walked past and kicked the back of the girl's chair, sniggering as they walked off. "Hmm that's strange," thought Amy.. "but I guess that explains why this girl is so sad and shy."

Not knowing what to say Amy sat beside the girl in silence, hoping the girl would say something. She didn't say anything. Amy closed her eyes briefly and prayed for her, asking God for strength and the right words to say. Soon the loud speaker blared out "5 minutes, main field, get into your teams!" so she had to go.

The day was just as Amy had thought it would be. There had been rock climbing, abseiling, and a 'build your own water raft' competition, which sounded so fun but turned out to be a disaster! It was 5pm, and as Amy was walking by the shower complex she caught a glimpse of the girl again. She was sitting on the ground, against a wall, motionless, while a group of girls teased her. Amy's heart raced. "What should I do?" thought Amy. Intimidated by the group of mean looking girls, she quickly walked away, feeling so guilty for not doing anything to help. She was kicking herself inside, wondering why she was so paralyzed to do anything. "I should have gone over there and stood up for that girl!", thought Amy. The night was soon over, and Amy hopped into bed and felt so bad. She prayed and prayed that God would give her strength and the right words, should she come across a similar situation again.

The next morning Amy woke up with a newfound bounce in her step...it was like she was walking on clouds! Sure enough, as she walked into the mess hall again for breakfast there was the girl, sitting in the same corner, head down. She watched as the same group of girls went up at stood around her, taunting her and kicking her chair. She made a sigh, simply prayed, "Help me Jesus", and walked straight down to the end of the hall, her heart pounding out of her chest. "Hey what's happening here?" she said in the strongest voice she could muster up. "What's it to you?" said one of the girls. "Well, this is my friend, and I really don't like the fact that you're picking on her," proclaimed Amy. "How would you like it if someone treated one of your friends this way!" The girl didn't know what to say, she just stood there and pulled a sour face. "Well, go find something better to do, or would you like me to call over one of the camp leaders?" Amy continued. The girl made a 'snuff' and motioned to the group of girls to walk away. "Wow", thought Amy, "I actually did it!"

To her surprise, the girl looked up at Amy and actually spoke. "Thanks, you didn't have to do that", sheepishly muttered the girl. "No probs" smiled Amy. "I'm Amy by the way, what's your name?" "Claire," said the girl. "Well, nice to meet you Claire!"

"Why did you do that?" asked Claire. "Well," said Amy, there's a parable in the Bible that talks about not hiding your lamp under a blanket, or a table, or a bed. I mean, what's the point of having a light if you're not going to let it shine, right?" "Yea, I guess so," said Claire.

"Well, God gave me a light, and I decided to let it shine today," said Amy, "...and I guess it got rid of the darkness!"

"Sure did.." smiled Claire "...thanks." Amy looked to the sky and mouthed, "thanks Jesus!".. Maybe this camp was going to turn out better than she thought.

He said to them, "Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don't you put it on its stand? 22 For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open. 23 If anyone has ears to hear, let them hear."

Mark 4:21-2521

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW TO FIND THE SHADED WORD

1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										

1. A gem found in some oysters (5) or look at Matt 13:45
2. Ingredient used to make bread rise (5) see Matt 13:33
3. Jesus told lots of _____ to his disciples and the crowds (7)
4. "... if you have _____ as small as a mustard seed"
(5) see Matt 17:20
5. "... king who prepared a wedding _____ for his son"
(7) see Matt 22:2
6. "to one he gave five _____ of money" (7) see Matt 25:14
7. "Who then is the faithful and wise _____ (7) see Matt 24:45a
8. "...he was _____ and is found" (4) see Luke 15:25

All references from the NIV Bible

Crossword by Joy Graham

PARABLES OF JESUS

Pearl, Lamb, Yeast, Son, Weeds, Mustard, Field, Treasure, Seed, Samaritan, Lamp, Net, Fool, Talents, House, Banquet, Coin, Pharisee, Widow, Friend, King, Bed.

All of the above words are mentioned in parables that Jesus told. Can you find them in the wordfind below? Now look at Luke 15 and see if you can work out which three words are taken from this chapter.

S	A	M	A	R	I	T	A	N	I	O	C
X	E	R	U	S	A	E	R	T	E	N	S
D	P	E	A	R	L	A	M	P	S	O	D
N	G	D	D	A	L	O	O	F	N	D	E
E	N	E	M	U	S	T	A	R	D	E	E
I	I	B	Z	T	E	U	Q	N	A	B	W
R	K	Y	E	A	S	T	W	I	D	O	W
F	I	E	L	D	T	A	L	E	N	T	S
P	H	A	R	I	S	E	E	S	U	O	H

A FRIEND IN NEED

By Addy Coles 

Young Ned sat in the gutter, his kindy-pack in disarray on his back when kind-hearted Mr Boorman walked toward him.

"Hello Ned. What are you doing here?" Mr Boorman asked, plonking himself down into the gutter next to Ned.

"I'm running away from home, but I'm not allowed to cross the road."

"Good on you for obeying your parents," Mr Boorman said. "But it's getting cold and dark. Little boys your age should be tucked up in bed by now."

"Not you too!" Ned steamed.

"What's up?" Mr Boorman asked.

Ned pulled his pack off his back, rummaging through it as if he was looking for something.

"Mum's in one of her mean moods again!" Ned grumbled. "She made me have a bath just in the middle of an exciting chapter in my book."

"Did she?"

"Yes, and I nearly finished it too."

"Hmmm," Mr Boorman mumbled. "And is that the reason you're sitting here in the gutter?"

"Yeah, well... I wanted possum stew for Tea too."

"Don't tell me Mum cooked sausages and chips instead?"

"How did you guess?" Ned asked.

Mr Boorman rubbed his nose.

"I've got a pretty good sense of smell and the aroma of your dinner smelled rather good."

"I've always wanted to taste possum stew..." Ned mumbled, not really listening to Mr Boorman. "It sounds so exciting."

"And sausages and chips are boring, are they?"

"Yeah."

Ned's hand dived into the side pocket of his back-pack again and pulled out a book.

"Look! These kids are eating possum stew. They cooked it themselves."

"Wow! That's quite an adventure."

"Have you tasted possum stew?" asked Ned.

"A few times."

"What's it taste like?"

"I won't go into detail."

"Please..."

"Tell you what," said Mr Boorman. "I just caught a possum last night. It's still in the shed. I could cook you up some possum stew right now."

"Really?" Ned beamed.

"Yes, but first go tell your mum where you are and what we're planning to do."

"Thanks Mr Boorman," Ned called over his shoulder as he ran home.

Ned soon returned with his mum.

"Thank you Mr Boorman," Ned's mum said with a twinkle in her eye. "Possum stew is just what Ned always wanted to try."

"You're very welcome Mrs Smale," Mr Boorman smiled. "And I'm sure Ned will be home soon."

Ned's mum walked home with a smug look on her face while Ned and Mr Boorman walked towards the old shed in the back yard.

"We'll have that possum stew cooked in no time," Mr Boorman chuckled as they entered the lean-to.

Ned squeezed his nostrils.

"What's that terrible smell?" he asked.

"That's your possum stew coming up," Mr Boorman said as he pulled a limp furry thing from a hook.

Ned's mouth quivered.

"Errrr..." he mumbled. "I've just remembered I like sausages and chips after all."

He shot past Mr Boorman and raced home.

"That's alright Ned," called Mr Boorman. "Enjoy your dinner!"

If you've read or heard Jesus' parable about the Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37), you might notice a similarity in Mr Boorman's actions. Mr Boorman also went out of his way to help someone in need. Although he acted differently, his actions were very important too. If he'd let a young boy like Ned go into the night alone, Ned could have got into all kinds of trouble. We can all be Mr Boormans or Samaritans by thinking of others more than ourselves and if we don't know what to do, we can ask Jesus there and then. He always has a solution.


Readers' Response

Email: info@biblediscovery.org.nz

or write to us: 888 New North Road, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025

Please send your poem, prayer,
question, joke or whatever to
us at Discovery Magazine.
We'd love to hear from you.

JESUS



**Jesus is our Saviour
Whom God sent from above
He corrects all our behaviour
And gives us all His love.
On the cross He died
With His mother by His side
What pain and agony He took
While we just sat and looked.
Oh, Jesus, we do love you
With all of our hearts
And, yes, there will be some day
When we will do our part.**

Written by Chantelle D'Souza (13yrs)



**Powerful
So amazingly cool
Simply the best
My favourite
Terrific
Everyone's favourite
Amazing
My spare time activity**

Written by Molly Brickell (10yrs)

A STORY WITH TWO MEANINGS

By Julia Martin 

“What’s a parable?” asked Mandy, as she snuggled up beside her mother for her evening Bible story.

“It’s a story,” explained her mother. “There are lots of parables in the Bible.”

“So any story can be a parable?” the small girl asked.

“No, not really. Parables are usually short, simple stories that have more than one meaning. Jesus often used parables to convey an important truth he wanted the people to understand.”

“How do you mean?”

“Well, he’d start talking about an everyday activity such as planting seed or finding a lost sheep. From these familiar scenes- known to everyone - he’d teach a moral or spiritual truth which the people needed to know.

Some people say a parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.”

“That’s great,” said Mandy, “so everyone was able to understand what Jesus was meaning?”

“No, not really. Only those listening who really wanted to discover the truth actually understood the message. For the people who didn’t care about knowing the truth, the stories Jesus told were interesting but had no other meaning. Sadly, those people went away just the same as when they came to hear Jesus.”

“So it was always the clever people who got the message Jesus was teaching?” said Mandy.

“Not at all. Some of the smartest and well-taught people of the day listened to Jesus but didn’t get the message because they had stubborn hearts and didn’t care to know the truth. At the same time, children, even as young as you, often

understood because they had open hearts and minds and wanted to please God.”

“Why don’t we have a look at one of the parables Jesus told?” suggested Mandy’s mother. “In Luke chapter 15, Jesus tells a story about a lost coin. In that part of the world, women were often given ten special coins as a wedding present. The coins were as precious as a wedding ring and to lose one was a terrible loss.

One day a woman discovered one of her coins was missing. She was extremely upset. Jesus described how she lit a lamp, swept the house and searched and searched until she found it. Excited and overjoyed, she called her friends and neighbours together to celebrate her good news.

This was a lovely story with a happy ending, but Jesus had a deeper message he wanted the people to think about.”

“What was that?” Mandy asked.

“He wanted them to know that everyone is precious to God and He is concerned when we wander away from Him and are lost. His love for everyone is so great that He searches for us and gives us the opportunity to respond to Him. When we come to our senses and come back to God for forgiveness, then there’s a party in heaven and all the angels of God celebrate.”

“How cool! Do you think there was a party in heaven when I trusted in Jesus?” asked Mandy.

“You can count on it. God’s Word can always be trusted.

Well my dear, that’s all for now - it’s past your bedtime. We’ll read another parable tomorrow evening and see what it can teach us.”

SEED GROWING

Mark 4:26-29

Fill in the missing words. By reading the Parable on the Growing Seed” in *Mark 4:26-29* you’ll find the answers.

Some words are back to front.

T _____
H _____
E _____
K _____
I _____
N _____
G _____
D _____
O _____
M _____
O _____
F _____
G _____
O _____
D _____



T: though, H: harvest, E: come (back to front), K: stalk (back to front), I: itself, N: night, G: grain, D: day, O: on, M: man, O: or, F: first, G: grows, O: to (back to front), D: seed (back to front).

**LEPERS . . .
I HEAL LEPERS**



A PARABLE



A parable is a word-picture which uses an image or story to illustrate a truth or lesson

“No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a bushel, but on a stand, that those who enter may see the light.” (Luke 11:33)

WORK AND WAGES

- Master and Servant (Luke 17:7-10)
- The Servant Entrusted with Authority or The Faithful and Unfaithful Servants (Matt. 24:45-51; Luke 12:42-46)
- The Waiting Servants (Luke 12:35-38; Mark 13:33-37)
- The Laborers in the Vineyard or The Generous Employer (Matt.20:1-16)
- The Money in Trust or The Talents (Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 19:12-27)
- The Lamp (Matt 5:14-16; Mark 4:21; Luke 8:16, 11:31) and The City Set on a Hill (Matt. 5:14b)
- The Body's Lamp (Matthew 6:22 f.; Luke 11:34-36)
- The Discarded Salt (Matt 5:13; Mark 9:50; Luke 14:34 f.)
- The Patch and the Wineskins (Matt. 9:16 f.; Mark 2:21 f.; Luke 5:36-39)
- The Householder's Treasure (Matthew 13:52)
- The Dishonest Steward (Luke 16:1-12)
- The Defendant (Luke 12:58 f.; Matthew 5:25 f.)
- The Unforgiving Official or The Unmerciful Servant (Matthew 18:23-35)
- The Rich Fool (Luke 12:16-21)
- The Wicked Vinedressers (Matthew 21:33-41; Mark 12:1-9; Luke 20:9-16)
- The Two Builders (Matthew 7:24-27; Luke 6:47-49)
- The Two Debtors (Luke 7:41-43)
- The Hidden Treasure (Matthew 13:44)
- The Pearl of Great Price (Matthew 13:45 f.)

WEDDINGS AND FEASTS

- The Sulking Children or The Children in the Marketplace (Matthew 11:16-19; Luke 7:31-35)
- The Arrogant Guest (Luke 14:7-11)
- The Bridegroom's Friend (John 3:28)
- The Bridegroom's Attendants (Matt.9:15a; Mark 2:18 f.; Luke 5:34)
- The Bride's Girlfriends or Ten Virgins (Matt25:1-13)
- The Tower Builder and The Warring King (Luke 14:28-32)
- The Wedding Feast or The Unwilling Guests (Matt 22:1-10; Luke 14:16-24)
- The Wedding Garment (Matthew 22:11-14)
- The Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31)

PARABLES FROM NATURE

- The Sower and the Seeds (Mark 4:3-9; Matt 13:3-9; Luke 8:5-8)
- The Grain of Wheat (John 12:24)
- The Weeds in the Grain or the Tares (Matt 13:24-30)
- The Net (Matthew 13:47-50)
- The Seed Growing Secretly (Spontaneously) or The Patient Husbandman (Mark 4:26-29)
- The Mustard Seed (Matt13:31f.;Mark 4:30-32; Luke 13:18 f.)
- The Leaven (Matthew 13:33; Luke 13:20 f.)
- The Budding Fig Tree (Matt 24:32 f.; Mark 13:28 f.; Luke 21:19-31)
- The Barren Fig Tree (Luke 13:6-9)
- The Birds of Heaven (Matthew 6:26; Luke 12:24)
- The Flowers of the Field (Matt 6:28-30; Luke 12:27f.)
- The Vultures & the Carcass (Matt 24:28; Luke 17:37)
- The Tree and its Fruits (Matthew 7:16; Luke 6:43-49)
- The Weather Signs (Luke 12:54-56; cf. Matthew 26:2 f.; Mark 8:11-13)

OPEN & CLOSED DOORS

- The Closed Door (Luke 13:24-30)
- The Doorkeeper (Mark 13:33-37; cf. Matt 24:42)
- The Thief in the Night and the Faithful Servants (Matthew 24:42-51.; Luke 12:32-48.)
- The Strong Man Bound (Matt.12:29; Mark 3:27; Luke 11:21 f.)
- The Divided Realm (Mark 3:24-26; Luke 11:17-20)
- The Unoccupied House or The Demon's Invasion (Matthew 12:43-45; Luke 11:24-26)
- The Importunate Neighbor (Luke 11:5-8)
- The Son's Request (Matthew 7:9-11; Luke 11:11-13)
- The Unjust Judge or The Importunate Widow (Luke 18:1-8)
- The Pharisee and the Publican (Luke 18:9-14)

LOST AND FOUND, FATHER AND SON

- The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)
- The Prodigal Son or The Loving Father (Luke 15:11-32)
- The Two Sons, The Apprentice Son, and The Slave and Son (Matthew 21:28-32; John 5:19-20a; John 3:35)
- The Lost Coin (Luke 15:8-10)
- The Lost Sheep (Matthew 28:12-14; Luke 15:4-7)
- The Shepherd, the Thief, and the Doorkeeper (John 10:1-18)
- The Doctor and the Sick (Matthew 9:12; Mark 2:17; Luke 5: 31 f.)
- The Great Assize or The Sheep and the Goats (Matthew 25:31-46)

Eat, drink and be merry

A modern day parable

Characters: Jerry - a business man
Charles - a financial manager

Scene: Jerry enters Charles's office.

C: Good afternoon Jerry. Come in and take a seat. Coffee?

J: Sure. Cream and two sugars, thanks.

C: So how are you doing?

J: I'm fine Charles ... but more to the point ... how are my financial affairs going?

C: Well, I'm pleased to report that you've had a successful year overall.

Your stocks and bonds have held up and you've made good gains on the share market. Gold prices have risen and your property investments are all returning substantial profits.

J: What about my factories? Are they making me money?

C: Yes they are. Despite the fact that you've raised your prices, people are still buying your products.

J: What about my tenants? It's a while since I put up their rents.

C: Well Jerry, times are hard for most people these days and some are struggling to pay their rent. It's not easy, especially with a family.

J: That's not my concern. Raise all the rents by ten percent. They'll just have to work harder.

C: What about gifts to charity? Helping the poor and needy.

J: No way.. I don't believe in charity. I came up the hard way and no one gave me a handout. 'God helps those who help themselves' is my motto.

C: Fair comment. Well, that's about it for now. Congratulations Jerry on a great year.

J: So Charles - do you reckon I can afford that luxury yacht I've had my eyes on for some time?

C: I can't see why not. You're in a very comfortable position and have no financial concerns whatsoever. Go out and buy whatever you fancy.

J: I might just do that. I've worked hard for years and now I'm going to take life easy - 'eat , drink and be merry', as the saying goes.

Actually, I'm thinking of pulling down one of my warehouses and replacing it with a bigger one to house all my possessions.

C: Great idea Jerry. Here, have another slice of cake to celebrate your success.

J: Hm .. I shouldn't really. I've put on a bit of weight lately - all the high living and fancy food. My doctor's not happy with me.

C: Don't worry about it. You've got years of living ahead of you.

J: I hope you're right Charles. Say, this cake is delicious. (He suddenly splutters and grasps his chest).

C: Are you all right Jerry? What's the problem?

J: Chest pains. I can't breathe. H..h...help me.. please!

C: Quick someone - call an ambulance. My client's having a heart attack. (Jerry slumps to the floor and dies).

C: Oh no he's dead! Help me someone. What do we do now?

But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?

This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich towards God.

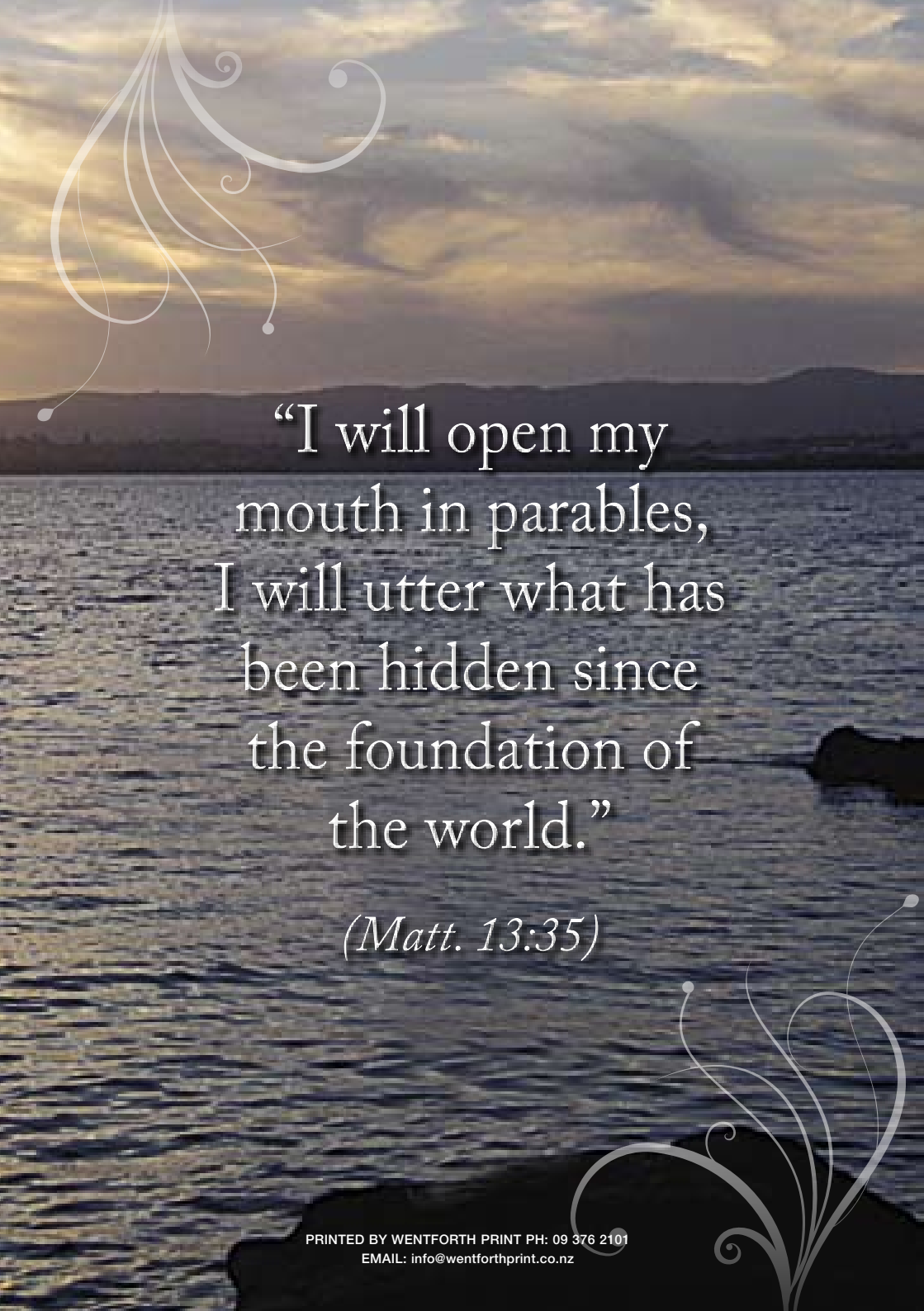

Luke 12:20-21

Stories and their meanings

Jesus often taught in parables so even the simplest listeners could understand His message if their hearts were open and sincere.

Match the following parables with their correct meaning;-

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. The Good Samaritan
(<i>Luke 10 : 30-37</i>) | A. Because God forgives us, we must be prepared to forgive others. |
| 2. The Lost Sheep
(<i>Luke 15 : 3-7</i>) | B. We should always pray and never give up. |
| 3. The Pharisee and Tax Collector
(<i>Luke 18 : 9-14</i>) | C. People listen and respond to God's message in different ways.. |
| 4. The Ten Bridesmaids
(<i>Matthew 25 : 1-13</i>) | D. God is concerned about everyone who is lost and seeks to find them. |
| 5. Different Soils
(<i>Mark 4 : 4-8</i>) | E. God knows our hearts and He knows if we are proud or humble. |
| 6. The Unforgiving Servant
(<i>Matthew 18 : 23-35</i>) | F. We must each be watching and waiting for Christ's return. |
| 7. The Talents
(<i>Matthew 25 : 14-30</i>) | G. We must love and help those who are needy regardless of who they are. |
| 8. The Unjust Judge
(<i>Luke 18 : 1-8</i>) | H. The Lord expects us to use our time, gifts and resources wisely until He returns. |



“I will open my
mouth in parables,
I will utter what has
been hidden since
the foundation of
the world.”

(Matt. 13:35)

