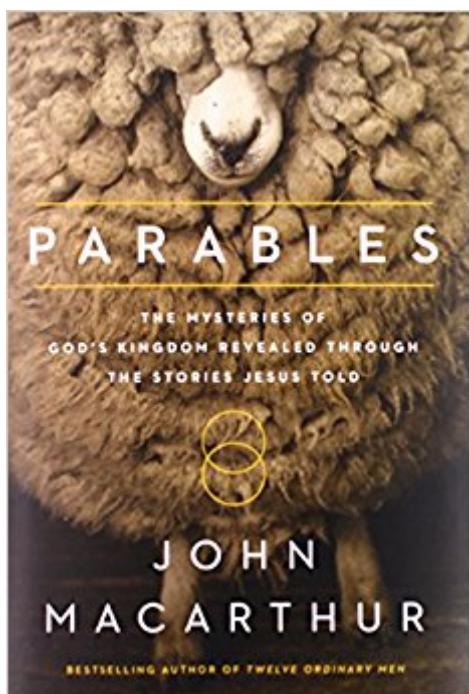


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# Parables: The Mysteries Of God's Kingdom Revealed Through The Stories Jesus Told



## **Synopsis**

Pastor-teacher John MacArthur helps readers understand Jesus' parables and how they relate to the whole of His message. Jesus was a master storyteller, and the parables He told were ingeniously simple word pictures with profound spiritual lessons. Understanding the parables is a crucial matter for followers of Jesus. Jesus told parables so His people might comprehend His message about the kingdom of God clearly. Master expositor and Bible commentator John MacArthur has spent a lifetime explaining the Word of God in clear and comprehensible terms. In *Parables* he helps Christians understand the essential lessons contained in the most famous and influential short stories the world has ever known.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

John MacArthur has served as the pastor-teacher of Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, California, since 1969. His ministry of expository preaching is unparalleled in its breadth and influence. In more than four decades of ministry from the same pulpit, he has preached verse by verse through the entire New Testament (and several key sections of the Old Testament). He is president of the Master's University and Seminary and can be heard daily on the Grace to You radio broadcast (carried on hundreds of radio stations worldwide). He has authored a number of bestselling books, including *Twelve Ordinary Men*, and *One Perfect Life*. For more details about John MacArthur and his Bible-teaching resources, contact Grace to You at 800-55-GRACE or gty.org. Â

Once again, John MacArthur has written an insightful and practical explanation to help the rest of us understand God's Word so we can apply the lessons to our lives. His explanation of the parables is based upon context, culture and historical significance of the time. A true academic approach to Scripture. More than a great explanation, the reader will be challenged to apply the lessons learned as their truths draw them closer to Him.

MacArthur takes the reader on a journey through a portion of the New Testament parables. A good book for digging deeper into the amazing stories, filled with meaning, that Jesus taught from.

John MacArthur is a study in consistency. Through more than forty-five years of public ministry he has simply taught the Bible. And the more he simply teaches the Bible, the more his audience and his influence grow and expand. In those years he has taught (and written commentaries) on every book of the New Testament while publishing dozens of bestselling books. His most recent book, *Parables*, is vintage John MacArthur. This new book shows how Jesus used parables to reveal the unfolding mystery of God's kingdom. MacArthur does this by teaching through a series of Jesus' most prominent and powerful parables (though, because he has already written an entire book on Jesus' best-known parable, he passes over *The Prodigal Son*). In each case he describes the context in which Jesus delivered the parable, he explains what Jesus meant to accomplish, and he shows what it teaches about God and his kingdom. It is just what MacArthur does—sound, helpful, quality Bible teaching. But before he does any of this, he invests some up-front effort in helping the reader understand the very literary form of the parable. What is a parable? We probably know one when we see one, especially in the gospels. But how many can define it? The most distinct marker of a parable is that it uses illustration and comparison to teach a spiritual lesson. MacArthur says, "A parable is an ingeniously simple word picture illuminating a profound spiritual lesson." A parable always makes a comparison between something commonplace and some truth in the spiritual realm. Jesus did not invent the form, though certainly he mastered it like no one else before or since. MacArthur goes on to address two important and controversial questions: Why did Jesus teach in parables, and how can we interpret his parables rightly? After looking at some examples of sloppy thinking when it comes to parables, MacArthur shows that

"Jesus' parables had a clear twofold purpose: They hid the truth from self-righteous or self-satisfied people who fancied themselves too sophisticated to learn from

Jesus, while the same parables revealed truth to eager souls with childlike faith—those who were hungering and thirsting for righteousness. And, according to Matthew 11:25-26, Jesus considered both of these results successful and gave thanks to his Father for each of them. As for the matter of interpretation, MacArthur insists that each parable has a clear and objective meaning Jesus meant to convey. “If it seems the stories Jesus told are capable of endless interpretations and therefore devoid of any discernible objective meaning, that’s because truly understanding them requires faith, diligence, careful exegesis, and a genuine desire to hear what Christ is saying. He also teaches the helpful and often-abused principle that the symbolism in Jesus’ parables is never thickly layered, and rarely even multidimensional. Trying to find meaning in every story element is an exercise in bad hermeneutics. Even the most detailed parables (like the good Samaritan and the prodigal son) usually teach fairly straightforward, uncomplicated lessons. Minor elements in the story are not to be laden with spiritual meaning. The reality is that Jesus was the master storyteller. There is not a truism so familiar or a doctrine so complex that He could not give it new depth and insight through the telling of a simple story. His narratives epitomize the plain, powerful profundity of His message and His teaching style. Having explained how to interpret and teach parables, MacArthur goes on to do that very thing. Parables shines a light on Jesus’ stories and, through them, to the Savior who told them. It’s a helpful, enjoyable, powerful book.

Excellent applications!

I love John MacArthur! His insight into God’s word is riveting. A must have book.

bible study, looks good

The best and clearest teaching on the Parables of Jesus I’ve read in my long life. Highly, highly recommend! Have consequently now purchased 9th copy for further gifting to family or friends.

Love this so far.

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